

# United Nations Nations Unies

BOARD OF AUDITORS

NEW YORK

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## **Opening Statement to the Fifth Committee on the Board of Auditors' Second Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Information and Communications Technology Strategy (A/73/160)**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Chair, Mr. Kay Scheller, President of the German Federal Court of Auditors and the other Board Members Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Mr. Jorge Bermúdez Soto, Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile, I have the honour to introduce the main findings from the Board of Auditors report on the implementation of the ICT Strategy.

### **Background**

The Committee, while considering a previous report of the Board presented in December 2015 (A/70/581) had recommended that the Board submit an annual progress report during the five-year implementation period of the ICT strategy. This was endorsed by the General Assembly (in resolution A/RES/70/238B). The present report of the Board of Auditors is the second report in compliance to this GA resolution and examines the implementation of the ICT strategy in United Nations during 2017.

### **Key findings**

#### ***Governance Framework and Accountability***

The Board is of the opinion that while Governance enablers such as frameworks and structures have been put in place, the practices are not in line with the prescribed framework. The ICT Executive Committee, the highest-level decision-making body, did not hold any meeting in 2017 against two meetings expected in a year. The ICT Board, the next level governance body, met only once in March 2017 against the schedule of one meeting every six weeks.

The Board noted that though 29 ICT performance management metrics were drawn up covering strategic, management and operational areas, the performance management framework was not implemented due to lack of resources.

The Board observed that policy gaps on areas of emerging concern like outsourcing of ICT services, end user device usage, information sharing, open data and for the reuse and safe disposal of decommissioned ICT equipment were yet to be identified and addressed.

### *Modernization*

The Board noted that multiple incident tracking systems continue to be in use to track security incidents. The coverage of the managed intrusion detection service was limited to specific networks. The Board is of the opinion that fragmented Security Incident Tracking makes it difficult to identify common issues and apply global solutions.

### *Transformation*

The Board noted that the phase I of the project for application rationalization / consolidation had been completed in July 2015 and it was reported in the Secretary General's second progress report that the number of applications had been reduced from 2,340 to 1,652 and that the goal was to further reduce the number to 1,000 by 2020. The Board noted that the number of applications had been further reduced to 1,220 by 2017. However, the Board observed duplication in applications that catered to a single functional area leaving scope for further rationalization below the targeted 1,000 applications by 2020.

### *Innovation*

The Board was informed that five Technology Innovation Labs were planned to be set up in Finland, Hungary, Egypt, Malaysia and Germany. The Board was also informed that budget and space has been committed for two of the labs while no budget had been committed for the other three labs though they were estimated to start by the end of 2018.

### *Global Sourcing*

The Board observed that successive reports of the Secretary General have been silent on how many global sourcing opportunities have been identified. The time line of the global sourcing strategy project which was initially up to March 2017 has now been extended up to February 2019.

### *Recommendations*

Of the 35 pending recommendations made in the Board's previous reports (A/67/651, A/70/581 and A/72/151), eight recommendations (23 per cent) have been fully implemented, 25 (71 per cent) are under implementation, one (3 per cent) has not been implemented while one (3 per cent) has been overtaken by events.

This concludes my introductory statement. I, along with my colleagues, would be happy to provide any clarification or additional information that the Committee may require.

Thank you.



**Peter Korn**

**Director of External Audit, Germany  
Chair, Audit Operations Committee**