

Press Release

Meeting of Panel of External Auditors 7-8 December, 2015

The fifty-sixth meeting of the Panel of External Auditors, chaired by Mr. Michael Ferguson, Auditor General of Canada, was held on 7-8 December, 2015 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Panel consists of Auditors General of 10 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) who are either elected or selected to conduct the external audit of the UN Secretariat, Funds and Programmes and Specialised Agencies. The meeting was attended by Auditors General or their representatives from Canada, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, France, Italy, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of the Philippines, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Germany.

External auditors are independent of the UN and conduct the audits on the financial statements and managerial and performance audits. The main objectives of the Panel are to further the co-ordination of the audits for which its members are responsible, and to exchange information on audit methods and findings. The Panel's Technical Group also met on 2-4 December to discuss technical matters. The Panel discussed matters such as changes in International auditing standards, International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) issues affecting the UN, strengthening quality assurance mechanisms amongst external auditors, assessment and reliance on Internal Audit work, transparency in costing in UN entities, the risks associated with Voluntary Contributions, fraud awareness and Anti-Fraud measures and the cost of oversight activities at the United Nations.

The Panel also met with Senior Management of the Geneva based organizations of the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to discuss 'Challenges faced by the United Nations.'

More details on the Panel's working are available at its website which is at: <http://www.un.org/en/auditors/panel/>