



Check Against Delivery

United Nations General Assembly Seventy-second Session

Fifth Committee

Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit
“Knowledge management in the United Nations system”

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the note of the Secretary-General conveying his comments and those of CEB members on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit “Knowledge management in the United Nations system” as contained in document A/72/325/Add.1.

Organizations welcome the report, recognizing that knowledge-based environments lead to better decision-making and increased effectiveness, productivity and quality and ultimately improved overall performance.

Organizations find the report to be relevant and timely and that it helps mainstream knowledge management within and across United Nations organizations, and it acknowledges the need to analyse the demand for staff expertise.

Organizations recognised that the report offers a set of useful official and soft recommendations which can strengthen knowledge management as well as good practices that can foster greater knowledge-sharing across the United Nations. Organisations welcome the report’s emphasis on the ‘human’ element of knowledge management and the recognition that human capital is seen as one of the prevailing factors in knowledge management process.

While appreciative of the report overall and supportive of its recommendations, organisations observed that it would have benefitted from further analysis in particular in reference to the review of progress since the previous Joint Inspection Unit review in 2007, as a number of the recommendations contained therein were still not fully implemented or that past progress had been reversed.

More specifically, in reference to recommendation 1 calling for the development of knowledge management strategies and policies aligned with the mandate, scope and objectives of the respective organisations by 2018, some organisation observe that where knowledge management work is organised in a decentralised fashion, a lighter framework that sets out high level principles and goals and articulates how the different parts of the organisation align behind them might be more appropriate.

In addition to their comments on the content of the report, organizations offered additional thoughts on the subject of knowledge management more generally. Some emphasized the need to recognize the challenges inherent in strategically, systematically and efficiently developing, organizing, sharing and integrating knowledge, while involving all relevant stakeholders. They stress that, in efforts to implement knowledge management/ sharing the degree of culture change required should not be underestimated and that for organizations that do not already have established knowledge management strategies and programmes, the incorporation of knowledge management skills and knowledge sharing abilities into daily work habits can take considerable time.

In closing, on behalf of the organizations of the UN system, I would like to thank the JIU for this report, which covered a topic of interest to CEB members and importance to the entire UN system.

Thank you