



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 for 2017”

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the note pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 65/270, as contained in document A/72/733.

In accordance with the statute of the Unit, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Board and through the secretariat of CEB, performs functions that support the work of the Unit, mainly in the preparation of reports that concern more than one organization.

Throughout 2017, the secretariats of CEB and the Unit worked collaboratively to ensure the timely preparation of the notes by the Secretary-General containing responses to reports addressing system-wide concerns. The secretariats also continued to engage in a dialogue to ensure a smooth report preparation process as the Unit maintains its focus on issues of a system-wide nature. Lastly, the Unit held consultations with the Information and Communication Technology Network at its twenty-eighth session.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General, consulted with members of the CEB (*in accordance with procedures set out in chapter II, article 3, of the statute of the Unit*) regarding the review of qualifications of inspectors proposed to fill a vacancy that occurred in 2017, as well as the

appointment of the Secretary of the Unit (*in accordance with chapter VI, article 19, of the statute*).

In closing, the Secretary-General remains committed to maintaining a close working relationship with the Unit and encourages all organizations to respond in a timely manner and in a spirit of cooperation to its requests.

Thank you



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Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit
“Outcome of the Review of the follow-up to the JIU recommendations by the United Nations
system organizations”

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 “Outcome of the Review of the follow-up to the JIU recommendations by the United Nations system organizations” as contained in document A/72/704/Add.1.

Organizations welcomed the report, and supported the general findings and the best practices identified therein. While appreciative of the report overall quality, organizations were keen to stress the important distinction between the role and authority of executive heads and that of the legislative bodies, particularly in reference to the agenda-setting and documentation of such bodies.

With regard to the addressees of the recommendations and the follow-up function of the Joint Inspection Unit, organizations indicated they would welcome further clarification by the Unit regarding the process and the criteria used in addressing recommendations to legislative bodies and to executive heads, noting that recommendations requiring decisions on the part of legislative bodies regarding management issues did not always clearly reflect the distinctions between those two types of audience.

Organizations appreciated the maturity matrix as a concrete basis for engagement regarding performance on Joint Inspection Unit matters, although they observed that in the event governing bodies decided not to consider the Unit’s recommendations or could not include them in their meetings’ agendas, this led to a decrease in their rates of recommendations’ acceptance

and implementation. Organizations suggested that, in future reporting of such statistics, the analysis be adjusted accordingly.

Organizations raised a number of questions about the process used for addressing recommendations included in management letters, since such letters fall outside the categories of reports, notes and confidential letters as defined in article 11 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit.

More specifically, in reference to recommendations 1 and 2, organizations stressed the distinct roles, responsibilities and authorities of the executive heads and legislative bodies and their respective bureaux, particularly in reference to deciding on the course of action to be taken and the final text of the decisions in question. Organizations agreed that while efforts should be made to ensure the timely consideration of the Unit reports, in the specific case of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, the current practice of bundling them together with relevant reports of the Secretary-General might still be the most practical and convenient one.

Concerning recommendation 5, while generally supportive, organizations observed that the existing processes were there to cost-effectively vet the responses, and sought clarifications on the costs/benefits of further verification through any additional independent channels, different from the one used by the Unit.

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