



**JOINT INSPECTION UNIT**  
of the United Nations System

**CORPS COMMUN d'INSPECTION**  
du Système des Nations Unies

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

2 March 2021

STATEMENT TO THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First part of the 75<sup>th</sup> resumed session

Agenda item 147

**Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020 and Programme of Work for 2021**

A/75/34

Inspector Jorge Flores Callejas, Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I have the honor to introduce the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020 and the programme of work for 2021, as contained in document A/75/34.

Despite disruptions in the working methods and conditions that occurred in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Unit adjusted its approach to meet the challenges and constraints, and ensure the timely and high-quality delivery of its programme of work. In 2020 the Unit conducted 13 reviews, of which eight have been completed and four have been carried over for completion in the first part of 2021. One project was postponed and is being resumed as part of the programme of work for 2021.

The Unit's outputs in 2020 covered a range of topics and addressed, in particular, the investigation function, enterprise risk management, multilingualism, learning, common premises, blockchain applications, and environmental sustainability in the United Nations. The reviews on cybersecurity, support for landlocked developing countries, and the current state of the ethics function will complete a thematic mix of reviews on timely and relevant topics, reflecting the Unit's distinct mandate in applying a system-wide perspective, while supporting individual legislative bodies through conducting organization-specific management and administration reviews, such as a completed review of ECLAC and an ongoing review of WMO.

In line with the General Assembly's request to optimize the number of projects in our programme of work through prioritization, we have included in the programme of work for 2021 five system-wide projects and two management and administration reviews of single organizations. System-wide topics in the programme of work will address racism and racial discrimination, business continuity, implementing partners, pre-tribunal stage appeal mechanisms, and accountability frameworks in the United Nations, and the single organization review's cluster will include the management and administration review of FAO and resume the review of UN-Habitat.

The relevance of the topics in the programme of work for 2021 has benefitted from extensive consultations with participating organizations and with other oversight and coordination bodies of the United Nations system.

The JIU, as requested by this body, remains committed to sharing information on the programme of work, experiences and best practices with other oversight bodies, including the Board of Auditors and the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services. Our coordination with other oversight bodies aims to avoid possible overlap and duplication and helps us in producing reports that are timely and relevant.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

While the Unit is committed to producing relevant, timely and high-quality reports, the effectiveness and impact of the work of the Unit depends on the actions taken on the recommendations made. The General Assembly has recognized this and pointed out that it is a shared responsibility of the Unit, secretariats of the participating organizations and Member States.<sup>1</sup> The analysis shows that not all participating organizations schedule JIU reports for consideration and only few present the full texts of the reports for consideration.

The Unit recently requested the executive heads of its participating organizations to inform the JIU about the consideration of its reports. The Unit will continue to engage with governing and legislative bodies and with the executive heads of participating organizations to streamline its follow-up on the reports and recommendations with a view to enhancing the impact and added value of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

During the introduction of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2019 and programme of work for 2020 at the seventy-fourth session and subsequent informal consultations, the Unit drew the attention of the Assembly to its strategic framework for the period 2020-2029.<sup>2</sup>

The Assembly did not take a decision on the strategic framework last year. The Unit would therefore **welcome the Assembly revisiting the strategic framework of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020-2029 and considering it at its present session, together with the report of the Unit for 2020 and programme of work for 2021.**

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I thank you for your time and look forward to answering any questions you may have, either now or in the informal consultations.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [73/287](#), paragraph 4.

<sup>2</sup> The strategic framework of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020-2029 and medium-term plan for 2020-2024 ([A/74/34](#), annex I).