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Agenda item 142

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hicham **Oussihamou** (Morocco)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled “Joint Inspection Unit” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 27th and 32nd meetings, on 11 March and 5 April 2019. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.¹

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2018 and programme of work for 2019 ([A/73/34](#));

(b) Note by the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2018 ([A/73/727](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.26](#)

4. At its 32nd meeting, on 5 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Joint Inspection Unit” ([A/C.5/73/L.26](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Benin.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.26](#) without a vote (see para. 6).

¹ [A/C.5/73/SR.27](#) and [A/C.5/73/SR.32](#).



III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions [31/192](#) of 22 December 1976, [50/233](#) of 7 June 1996, [54/16](#) of 29 October 1999, [56/245](#) of 24 December 2001, [57/284](#) A and B of 20 December 2002, [58/286](#) of 8 April 2004, [59/267](#) of 23 December 2004, [60/258](#) of 8 May 2006, [61/238](#) of 22 December 2006, [61/260](#) of 4 April 2007, [62/226](#) of 22 December 2007, [62/246](#) of 3 April 2008, [63/272](#) of 7 April 2009, [64/262](#) of 29 March 2010, [65/270](#) of 4 April 2011, [66/259](#) of 9 April 2012, [67/256](#) of 12 April 2013, [68/266](#) of 9 April 2014, [69/275](#) of 2 April 2015, [70/257](#) of 1 April 2016, [71/281](#) of 6 April 2017 and [72/269](#) of 4 April 2018,

Reaffirming the statute of the Unit¹ and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Unit for 2018 and programme of work for 2019² and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2018,³

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2018 and programme of work for 2019;²

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2018;³

3. *Stresses* the importance of the oversight functions of the Unit in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions within the participating organizations and providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations to improve and strengthen the governance of the United Nations as a whole;

4. *Recognizes* that the effectiveness of the Unit system-wide is a shared responsibility of the Unit, the Member States and the secretariats of the participating organizations;

5. *Also recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the impact of the Unit on the management efficiency and transparency of the participating organizations within the United Nations system;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the preparation by the Unit of a medium- and long-term strategic framework for the period from 2020 to 2029, encourages the Unit to consult and engage with the participating organizations, as well as to apply lessons learned in developing its strategic framework for the period from 2020 to 2029, while taking into account ongoing organizational reforms;

7. *Stresses* the need for the Unit to continuously update and improve its medium- and long-term strategic framework for the period from 2020 to 2029, taking into account the dynamics and challenges of the environment in which it undertakes

¹ Resolution [31/192](#), annex.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/73/34)*.

³ [A/73/727](#).

its activities, looks forward to the presentation by the Unit of the strategic framework, and decides to consider any resources associated with the implementation of the medium- and long-term strategy approach in the context of future programme budgets;

8. *Encourages* the Unit, within its medium- and long-term strategic framework for the period from 2020 to 2029, to continue to include single organizations for management and administrative reviews every year and to endeavour to complete those reviews within the programme of work of the Unit;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to consider optimizing the number of projects in its programme of work through prioritization;

10. *Also reiterates its request* to the Unit to continue to focus its reports on priority items of the participating organizations and the States Members of the United Nations, including by taking into consideration the programme of work of the General Assembly, with the aim of providing the Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with thematic reports of the Unit that can be used to maximum effect;

11. *Welcomes* the coordination of the Unit with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, and encourages those bodies to continue to share experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies, as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, with a view to avoiding overlap or duplication and achieving further synergy, cooperation, effectiveness and efficiency, without prejudice to the respective mandates of the audit and oversight bodies;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to comply fully with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the recommendations of the Unit, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

13. *Encourages* the executive heads and invites the legislative bodies of participating organizations to effectively use the reports of the Unit and meaningfully engage and implement its recommendations, including through allocating sufficient time for the presentation of reports of the Unit during governing body sessions;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it;

15. *Reaffirms* article 20 of the statute of the Unit,¹ in which it is stipulated that the Unit shall be invited to be represented at meetings when its budget estimates are being discussed;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to intensify efforts to ensure that the United Nations system gives timely and due consideration to the recommendations of the Unit and to improve the implementation rates thereof;

17. *Reiterates its invitation* to the legislative organs of the participating organizations to fully consider, discuss and take concrete action in a timely manner on the relevant recommendations issued by the Unit, including follow-up, as appropriate, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 4 of its resolution [50/233](#);

18. *Welcomes* the increased use of the web-based tracking system and the website of the Unit within platforms hosted by the Secretariat, looks forward to the updates being prepared for the system by the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat, and requests the heads of participating organizations to make full use of the web-based tracking system of the Unit;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide full support for the improvements and enhancements to the functionality of the services for hosting and maintaining the web-based tracking system and the website of the Unit within existing resources.
