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Agenda item 144

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Marinko Avramović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2022, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-seventh session the item entitled “Joint Inspection Unit” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 26th and 28th meetings, on 6 and 31 March 2023. 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 2022 and programme of work for 2023 ([A/77/34](#));

(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 2022 ([A/77/649](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/77/L.29](#)

4. At its 28th meeting, on 31 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Joint Inspection Unit” ([A/C.5/77/L.29](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Norway.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/77/L.29](#) without a vote (see para. 6).

¹ [A/C.5/77/SR.26](#) and [A/C.5/77/SR.28](#).



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, [72/269](#) of 4 April 2018, [73/287](#) of 15 April 2018, [75/270](#) of 16 April 2021 and [76/261](#) of 13 April 2022,

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 2022 and programme of work for 2023² and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2022,³

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2022 and programme of work for 2023;

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2022;

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. *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;

¹ Resolution [31/192](#), annex.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/77/34).*

³ [A/77/649](#).

7. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Unit to fulfil its programme of work, and notes the delay of several reviews, including the cumulative impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and delayed responses from the organizations subject to reviews;

8. *Underscores* the unique role of the Unit as an external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body, and stresses the important contribution that its recommendations make towards improving the efficient and effective performance of the United Nations system;

9. *Recalls* that the General Assembly approved the 2023 budget for the Unit in its resolution [77/263](#) of 30 December 2022, expresses concern that established budgetary procedures were not fully adhered to, recalls that the Unit is funded by a cost-sharing arrangement between the entities represented in the Finance and Budget Network and that these entities are subject to the Unit's independent oversight, and requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that decisions taken by the General Assembly on the budget of the Unit are implemented in accordance with established procedures;

10. *Reaffirms* the independence of the Unit, as set out in article 7 of its statute, and stresses that budget estimates are to be prepared in a transparent and consistent manner for submission to the General Assembly in accordance with article 20 of the statute of the Unit;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply 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;

12. *Stresses* the need for all participating organizations to comply with the commencement and process of reviews as foreseen by the Unit, unless it is decided otherwise between the Unit and the organization;

13. *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;

14. *Welcomes* continued efforts to improve the efficiency of the review process and the quality of reports of the Unit, including user-friendly summaries of reports;

15. *Requests* the Unit to examine the status quo, as there are significantly different rates of acceptance and implementation of recommendations, including those recommendations deemed not relevant by some participating United Nations system organizations, with the aim to ensure that future inspections will lead to an increase in the number of accepted recommendations without damaging the strength of recommendations;

16. *Invites* the legislative bodies of participating organizations to effectively use the reports of the Unit, and to give timely and due consideration to its recommendations, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the statute of the Unit, and requests the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to continue to encourage participating organizations within the United Nations system to regularly review the status of acceptance and implementation of the recommendations of the Unit, especially those

related to system-wide coordination and coherence, and to consider reporting explanations for non-acceptance and non-implementation to the Unit;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Unit to further strengthen its outreach, improve its communications products with a view to highlighting the Unit's work, and enhance its engagement with the senior management of participating organizations and the Member States, and requests the Unit to continue such efforts;

18. *Strongly encourages* the Unit to strengthen the review of long-term effectiveness of its implemented recommendations and to update the General Assembly thereon during the comprehensive midpoint assessment in 2024;

19. *Recognizes* the internal self-assessment conducted by the Unit on its work and operations, and looks forward to an update on its findings, including the action plans, and the implementation of its recommendations in the context of the next report of the Unit;

20. *Recalls* paragraph 22 of its resolution [65/270](#), and stresses the importance of having a well-functioning web-based system for tracking up-to-date information on the status of implementation of recommendations of the Unit.
