



The Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations system

**Presentation to the Joint Swiss-UNITAR Briefing on
United Nations Budgetary Matters**

Day 3: Oversight

8 September 2022

What is the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)?

- JIU is the only independent external oversight body with a system-wide mandate for inspections, evaluations and investigations.
- Statute of the Unit was approved by the General Assembly with effect from 1 January 1978.
- JIU is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly and of the competent legislative organs/governing bodies of 28 organizations of the United Nations system that have accepted the JIU statute.

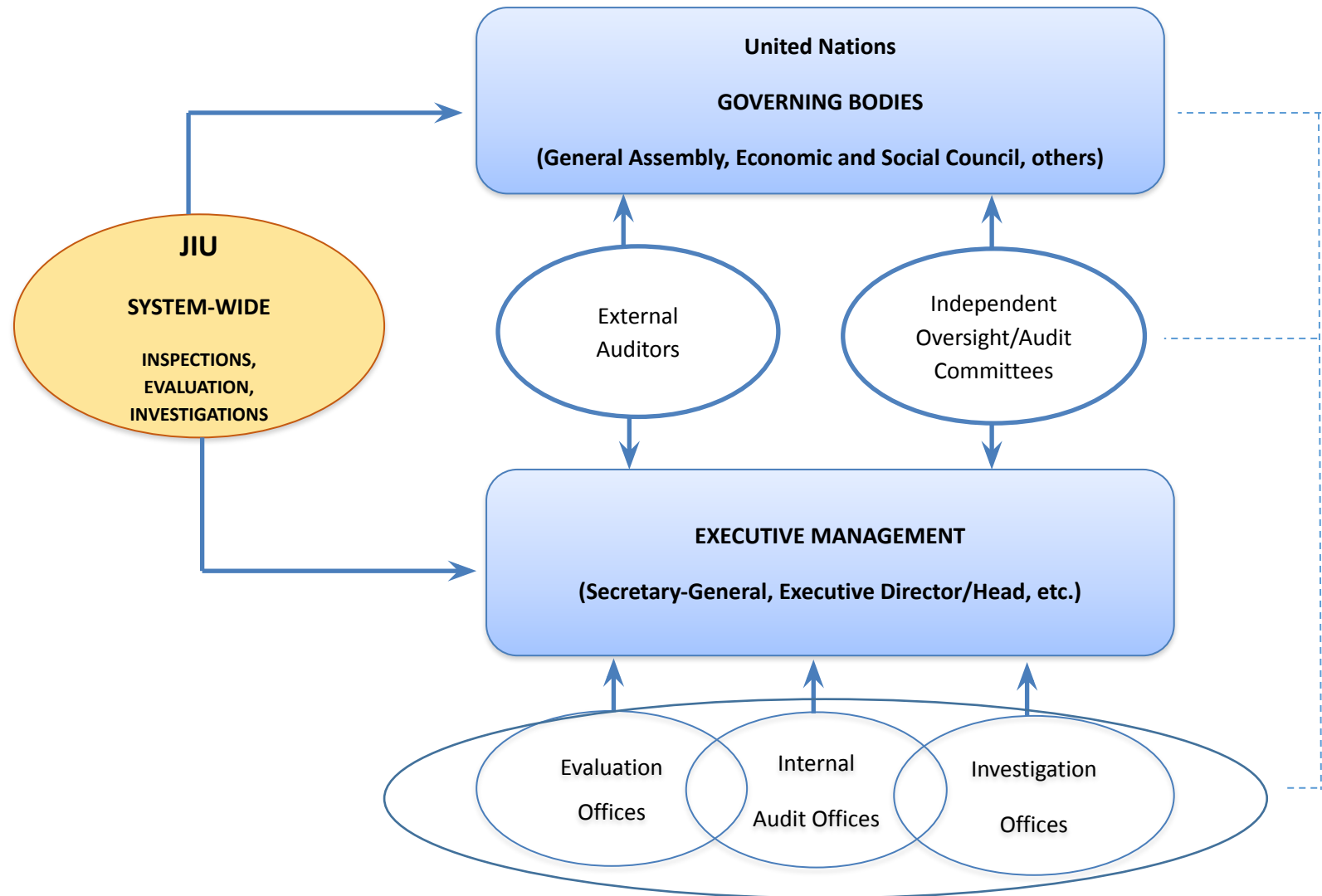
What is the JIU's Mandate?

Resolution 31/192 established the JIU as the only independent external oversight body empowered with a system-wide mandate. As such, the Unit became a standing subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and of other legislative organs and governing bodies of the United Nations organizations that accepted its statute.

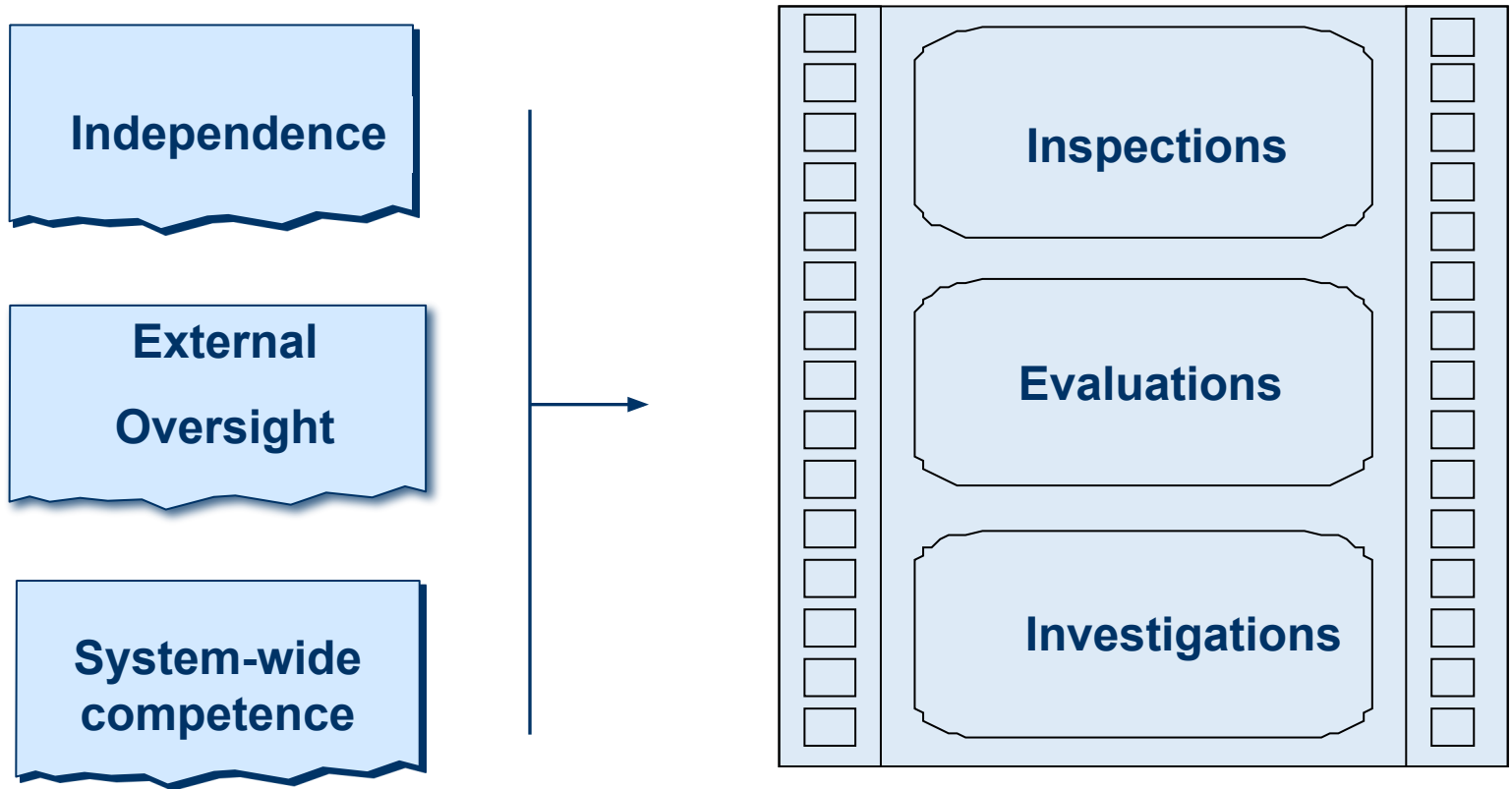
The goals are to:

- Assist legislative organs of 28 JIU participating organizations in meeting their governance responsibilities
- Improve governance, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness
- Promote greater coordination and coherence between and across United Nations system organizations
- Identify good/best practices, propose benchmarks and facilitate information-sharing throughout the United Nations system

JIU in the oversight architecture of the United Nations system



Features of the JIU



Resources, methodologies and procedures

- 11 Inspectors
 - Inspectors are appointed by the General Assembly
 - Serve 5-year term (max. two terms)
 - Mandated to provide an independent view through inspections, evaluations, reports, letters and notes aimed at improving management and methods and at achieving greater coordination between organizations
 - Conduct system-wide, multi-agency and single organization reviews
 - Work independently, or sometimes in teams of 2-3
- Executive Secretary and 19 secretariat staff provide support for the work of the Inspectors
- JIU Norms and Standards
- JIU Internal Working Procedures

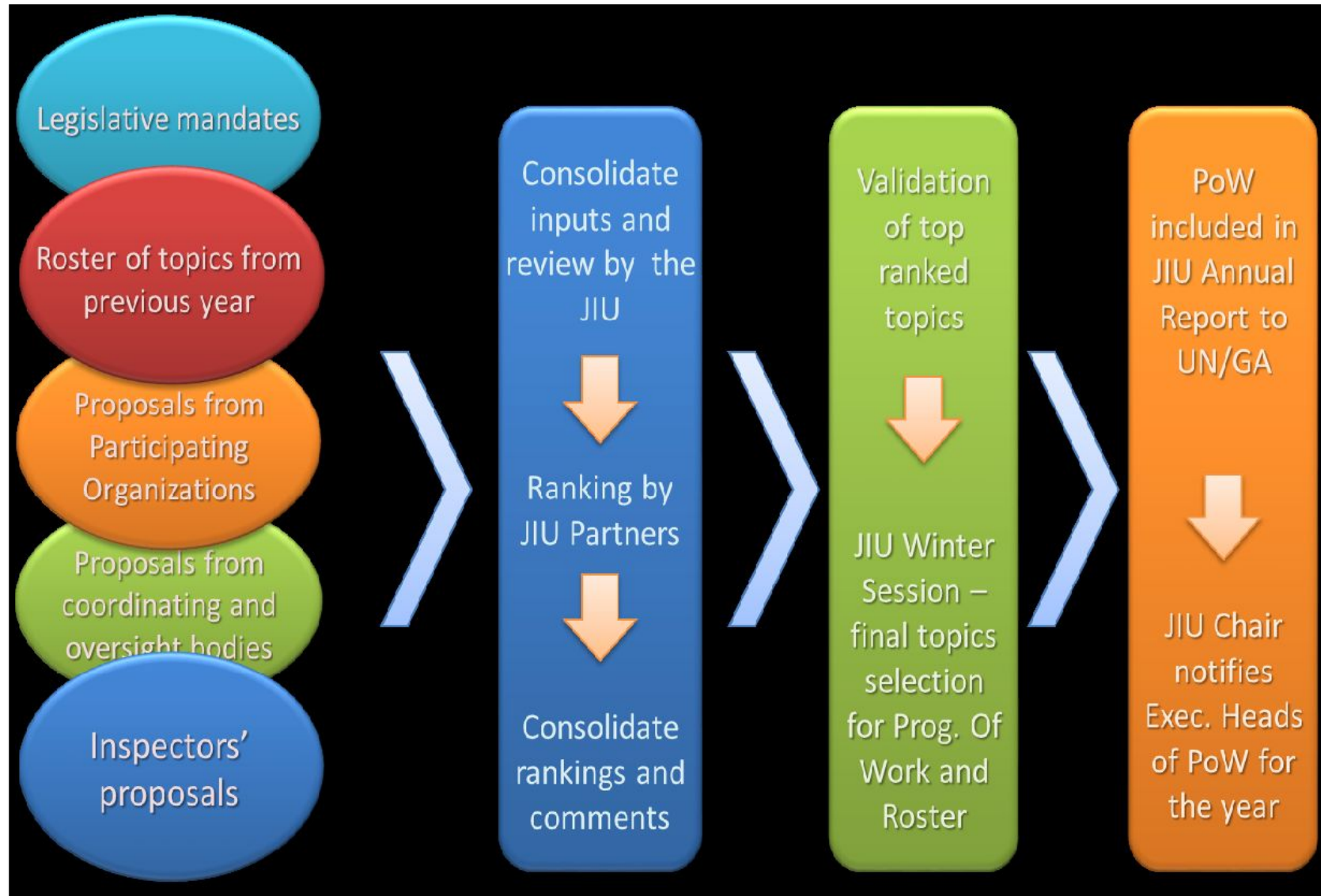
Who are our stakeholders?

- Member States
- Legislative organs/governing bodies of participating organizations
- 28 participating organizations (POs)
 - United Nations Secretariat (including organizations whose secretariats are part of the United Nations Secretariat)
 - Funds and programmes
 - Specialized agencies
- Executive heads of the POs
- Other interested parties

How do we work with General Assembly and other legislative organs/governing bodies?

- Present reports, primarily through the Fifth Committee; Second Committee and Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)
- Legislative organs and/or governing bodies of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes also take up JIU reports – some Organizations are better than others
- Successful engagements are when legislative organs/governing bodies engage with the JIU on the substance of each report and ‘endorse’ JIU recommendations for implementation
- Provide briefings to Member States Groups (only on their request) on findings and conclusions of reports

Identification of review topics



What guides the JIU's programme of work?

- Inputs from the participating organizations, Member States/groups of Member States, other oversight and coordination bodies of the United Nations system
- Inspectors' own observations, experience and/or assessment of priorities
- Direction and requests by General Assembly and legislative organs and governing bodies of other United Nations system organizations

Reviews in progress

Carried over from 2021:

- Review of management and administration in UN-Habitat
- Policies, measures, mechanisms and practices in United Nations system organizations to prevent and respond to racial discrimination
- Review of the internal pre-tribunal stage appeal mechanisms available to staff members in the United Nations system organizations
- Review of accountability frameworks in the United Nations system organizations

Started in Q1/2022

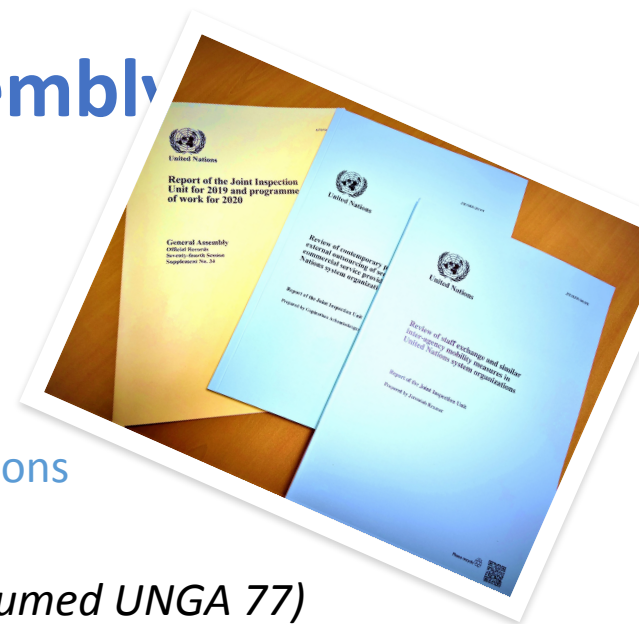
- Flexible working arrangements in United Nations system organizations
- Review of mental health and well-being policies and practices in United Nations system organizations
- Review of management and administration in the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Programme of Work for 2022

- Flexible working arrangements in United Nations system organizations
- Review of mental health and well-being policies and practices in United Nations system organizations
- Review of management and administration in the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Review of the acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations by the United Nations system organizations, the process of handling the JIU reports by the JIU participating organizations and their consideration by their legislative organs/governing bodies
- Review of quality, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of health insurance schemes in the United Nations system organizations
- Review of the use of non-staff personnel and related contractual modalities in the United Nations system

Reporting to the General Assembly

- Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2021 and programme of work for 2022
(*first resumed UNGA 76 – resolution adopted*)
- Multilingualism in the United Nations system (*TBC*)
- Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations
(*main part UNGA 77*)
- Ethics function in the United Nations system (*first resumed UNGA 77*)
- Contemporary practices in the external outsourcing of services to commercial service (*first resumed UNGA76 – deferred to UNGA 77*)
- Mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system (*62nd CPC - completed*)
- United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries (*main part UNGA 77 – Second Committee*)
- Review of the management of implementing partners in the United Nations system organizations (*main part UNGA 77*)
- Business continuity in the United Nations system (*main part UNGA 77*)



Follow-up of JIU recommendations

Web-based Tracking System

(WBTS)

Online system (WBTS) available to all JIU participating organizations and to Member States

- Tracks the acceptance, implementation and impact of the recommendations of JIU's reports, notes and management/confidential letters
- Offers reporting with statistics and graphical presentations
- JIU is considering options for enhancing and improving the functionality in the WBTS
- System is accessible to all participating organizations, independent audit/oversight committees and to Member State delegations

Periodic review of acceptance and implementation of its recommendations by JIU

- Last performed in 2016
- Included in the 2022 programme of work. Likely to commence in 2023.

Follow-up of JIU recommendations

Internal Oversight

entities

Encourage internal oversight offices in the United Nations system to follow up JIU recommendations in the context of reviews they may be conducting in an associated subject area

Audit and Oversight Committees

- United Nations system Audit and Oversight Committees have a role to play in ensuring that both the managements and the legislative organs/governing bodies give due attention to the implementation of JIU recommendations

Legislative organs/governing

bodies

Timely consideration of JIU reports and recommendations

- Decisive action on recommendations to legislative organs/governing bodies
- Trend is positive towards legislative organs/governing bodies holding management accountable for implementation and for non-acceptance of recommendations

Status of acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations

Aggregate status of acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations by JIU participating organizations (percentage)									
	Accepted	Not accepted	Not relevant	Under consideration	Not available	Implemented	In progress	Not started	Not available
All organizations average	73	4	9	3	11	77	17	4	2

Source: JIU Web-based tracking system, August 2022

JIU self assessment objectives

- To take stock of the Unit's evolution since the last self-evaluation, with reference to the implementation of actions derived from its conclusions and proposals under the purview of the Unit.
- To obtain and analyze feedback from participating organizations and legislative bodies on the work of the Unit and its compliance with the JIU statute and mandates and resolutions of the legislative bodies.
- To review the adequacy and utilization of the Unit's resources (human, financial, and technological, as well as corporate information and knowledge), including its internal regulatory framework (i.e. norms and standards and internal working procedures).
- To self-assess the utility of JIU activities, processes and products, including outreach and communications.
- To recommend actions on areas requiring further improvement in all dimensions considered above.

NOTE

- A key outcome of the self-assessment is to inform the revision of the results, indicators of achievement and targets in the JIU Strategic Framework 2020-2029, as requested by the General Assembly

Opportunities for Member States delegations to engage with the JIU

- Contribute proposals, where relevant (issues of system-wide relevance and importance) for consideration by the JIU for its programme of work (request management to consult the Oversight Committees). This can be done either by individual Member States or by recognized groupings
- Ensure appropriate and timely action is taken by management and legislative organs/governing bodies on JIU reports and recommendations
 - Review the status of implementation of JIU recommendations
 - Review the consideration of JIU reports by legislative organs/governing bodies and the decisions/resolutions adopted as a result
- Engage with the JIU on a regular basis (such as this meeting) as well as on issues of mutual interest relating to any report of the Unit

Thank You



visit the JIU web site – www.unjiu.org to access all our reports