The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

For the Joint Swiss-UNITAR briefing United Nations Budgetary Matters: Oversight Mechanisms

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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 UNGA and of other legislative bodies of the UN 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 UN system organizations
• Identify good/best practices, propose benchmarks and facilitate information-sharing throughout UN system
Who are our stakeholders?

• 28 participating organizations (PO)
  • Funds & Programmes and UN Secretariat
  • Specialized agencies
• Executive heads
• Legislative/governing bodies of the PO’s.
• Member States
• Other interested parties
JIU in the oversight architecture of the UN system

UN system and the three lines of defense model

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<th>Legislative/governing body (GA)</th>
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What guides the JIU’s programme of work?

• Inputs from the participating organizations
• Inspectors’ own observations, experience and/or assessment of priority
• Direction and requests by GA and other UN system organization governing bodies
• Strategic Framework 2020-29
  • Guiding principles
  • Strategic goals
  • Thematic areas of focus
  • Strategic approach
  • Framework includes metrics, review mechanism (2024) and performance criteria
How do we do what we do?

• 11 Inspectors;
  • Inspectors appointed by the GA
  • Serve 5-year terms (max. two terms)
  • Mandated to provide an independent view through inspections, evaluations, 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 along with 19 secretariat staff provide support for the work of the Inspectors

• JIU Norms and Standards

• Internal Working Procedures
How do we work with GA and other governing bodies?

• Present reports, primarily, through 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 5\textsuperscript{th} committees
• Provide briefings to Member State groups (only on their request) on findings and conclusions of reports
• Successful engagements are when governing/legislative bodies ‘endorse’ JIU recommendations for implementation
What is our Programme of Work and what can you expect in the near future?

- Process for developing our POW for 2021 is currently underway.
  - 2021 POW will be finalized in January 2021

- 2020 POW includes reviews on:
  - Cybersecurity
  - Blockchain applications
  - Ethics function
  - Environmentally friendly policies, practices and facilities across UN orgs
  - UN system support to landlocked developing countries
Reports to be presented

• Reports that will be presented to the GA in 75th session:
  • Inter-agency mobility measures

• Reports to be presented at first resumed 75th session (March 2021):
  • External outsourcing services to commercial service providers
  • Review of management and administration of ECLAC
  • UN Common Premises
  • Investigations function
  • Enterprise Risk Management
  • Learning policies & platforms
  • Multilingualism
  • Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020 and programme of work for 2021
Follow up on JIU Recommendations: WBTS

JIU Web Based Tracking System (WBTS)

• Implemented in 2012

• Database that maintains the record of the status of JIU recommendations issued as updated by POs:
  • the acceptance; implementation; impact of the recommendations of JIU’s reports, notes and management/confidential letters.
  • offers a unique Information-sharing platform (with statistics and graphical presentations).

Login to the Follow-up system as Member State:

www.unjiu.org
select--> Follow-up system
user name: memberstate@un.org
password: Member2020
Follow up on JIU recommendations

- All Joint Inspection Unit reports and notes: 69 (Rate of acceptance), 81 (Rate of implementation)
- System-wide and several organizations: 69 (Rate of acceptance), 81 (Rate of implementation)
- Single-organization: 77 (Rate of acceptance), 82 (Rate of implementation)
What Member States can do to support the JIU:

• Ensure that JIU reports are presented in the appropriate committee/forum
• Encourage acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations
  • Request information from staff on recommendations that are not accepted
• Request (through resolutions) reviews on topics that are within the JIU’s mandate
• Encourage your country’s delegates to the legislative bodies of other UN system organizations to consider JIU recommendations – especially those that relate to coordination, collaboration, and good practices.
Questions & Comments