



Check Against Delivery

United Nations General Assembly Sixty-Sixth Session

Fifth Committee

Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on “Preparedness of United Nations system organizations for the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)”

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the note of the Secretary-General conveying his comments and those of CEB members on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit titled “Preparedness of United Nations system organizations for the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)”, document A/66/308/Add.1.

The report contains three recommendations, the first two calling on legislative bodies to expect reports on, and support, the IPSAS implementation process and one calling on executive heads to ensure the implementation of the 16 best practices defined by the JIU.

CEB members welcomed the analysis and, as you no doubt observed from the concise nature of the document, largely accepted the results of this comprehensive report. I would like to point out that this general acceptance by agencies is a result of the close coordination between the JIU and the agencies of the UN system during the report

preparation process. And many agencies indicated in their response that they have either adopted, or are in the process of adopting, many of the proposed benchmarks

However, a few of the benchmarks proposed in the report met with resistance from agencies. You will note, for example, that some agencies disagreed with the call to perform continuous testing of internal controls during the preliminary implementation stage of an IPSAS project, as proposed in benchmark 15. These agencies suggest that internal control testing best belongs within the internal audit function. Agencies also expressed concerns with the implementation practicality of benchmarks 13 and 16.

Mr. Chairman, these three benchmarks elicited the only discordant notes from agencies, which highlights the overall acceptance by agencies of the report.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the appreciation expressed by agencies to the JIU for this report, which covered a topic of timely interest to CEB members. Organizations of the system found much value in the report and welcomed its comprehensive nature.

Of course, we stand ready to answer any questions you or members of the committee may have.

Thank you