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**STATEMENT BY INSPECTOR ISTVAN POSTA
CHAIR OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT**

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resumed 67th Session

Fifth Committee

ITEM 136. : Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2012 and Programme of Work for 2013
New York - 4 March 2013.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

1. On behalf of the Joint Inspection Unit, I am honored to introduce its 2012 Annual Report and the Programme of Work for 2013 (A/67/34).

(Achievements in 2012)

2. I am proud to start off with saying that in spite of a challenging programme of work for the year both in terms of reviews and in terms of internal reform initiatives, the Unit has performed exceptionally well during 2012. This resulted in an increased number of well received quality reports and notes, the design and release of the new JIU website, and the launching of the on-line web-based tracking system (WBTS) to follow the status of acceptance and implementation of the JIU recommendations.
3. The Unit issued 17 reports and notes, and one management letter. The majority addressed system-wide issues. Three reports covered Geneva-based organizations, two of them were supported by voluntary contributions from the concerned organization. Regarding the remaining items from the 2012 workplan. One Note has already been completed while two other projects will be finalized in the next few weeks. Another project was postponed to avoid potential duplication with an ongoing evaluation by consultants hired by the United Nations
4. The Unit improved its outreach and communication strategy, convening its 2nd biennial meeting of Focal Points, as well as a number of meetings with Member States representatives, relevant committees of the GA as well as presentation of Reports to legislative bodies of the JIU participating organizations. Our collaboration with the CEB through the CEB Secretariat has become stronger and we thank the CEB Secretariat for facilitating receiving accelerated comments in a number of cases.
5. Cooperation with other coordinating and oversight bodies became more systematic and forward-looking, in particular in preparing the Programme of Work for 2013, to ensure synergies and avoid duplication.
6. Resolution 66/259, in its paragraph 6, requested the Unit to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs for their effective utilization in the deliberations. The collaboration with the CEB was strengthened with a view to

shortening the 6-months period to consolidate system-wide comments, a rule which delays the expedite presentation of Reports to the legislative bodies.

7. Internally, the JIU continued improving its working methods and professionalism, and finalized its internal guidelines on evaluation, aligned to UNEG standards, and is about to finalize guidelines on investigation. These are in line with best prevailing international practices in both fields.

(Programme of work for 2013)

8. The Programme of Work for this year includes 12 new projects, a well-balanced selection of topics mostly of system-wide coverage, as well as two review of management and administration of participating organizations. A new approach was adopted to envisage the coverage of highly-complex and resource-demanding issues (e.g. system-wide safety and security issues, or special political missions), by including two feasibility studies which will assess the interest of the clients and the resources needed to undertake these reviews, and pledge for these to ensure their realization, if adopted, in 2014.
9. The Unit will continue to maximise the application of the Web-based tracking system to follow the acceptance and implementation of its recommendations by its participating organizations. Among the new features, it provides online special access to Member States representatives so that you, Distinguished Delegates, and your capitals can consult in real-time the status of implementation of the recommendations emanating from JIU reports, notes and management letters. I hope that we will be able to demonstrate the WBTS to you during the informals later this week.
10. I would also like to thank you for the invaluable support given to this project, the WBTS, which led to its successful implementation thanks to the *ad hoc* budgetary allocation that was granted for its realization. However, no budgetary allocation was considered for its future maintenance and further development of upgraded versions. I take this opportunity to ask for your support, in this regard, as it is critical to ensure financial sustainability to maintain the system but to also ensure quality control which we cannot deliver on within the limitations of a budget that has been stretched too much for too many years.
11. The Unit appreciates the continued recognition by Member States of its role as the only system-wide independent oversight body, and as such we acknowledge the requests for the JIU to play its unique role to honour the mandates emanating from the resolution of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. We welcome such requests as they increase the potential of our work to be relevant for future discussions by member states.
12. One of the requests entails for the JIU to be part of the interim coordination mechanism for system-wide evaluation, to submit a proposal for pilot system-wide evaluations. We believe that as the JIU has become stronger in recent years we are well positioned than ever to fully exercise our mandated role in this regard. However, in order to do so, we can no longer continue to do more with the same. This would be like asking an airplane to fly double maximum distance with the same fuel. As much as we would like this to happen, the plane will only be able to go so far with the same amount of fuel and then fail miserably.

Mr Chairman,

13. This clearly is a time for prudent financial decision-making: growth without greater efficiencies and results can no longer be accepted. The UN system including its governing bodies will have to make hard choices in terms of what should be funded and what should not. Proper oversight is now needed more than ever to help the system and you member states to make the best informed choices.
14. This brings me to my final point. Funding for internal oversight has increased significantly in the past twenty years. We believe this is good and appropriate as oversight has a strong role to play in an organizations' decision-making. At the same time funding for external system-wide oversight has not increased, despite increased demand for it. Why so? A main reason for this situation is that those who are being inspected or evaluated have a say over the budget for it. This, in itself, is against any applicable and recognized standards on the independence of external oversight bodies. For years this situation has affected the JIU's ability to deliver on its mandate. The Unit's original budget proposals never reached member states as they are already cut back by the Secretary General at the time when the overall budget submission is being prepared. There is no real discussion on whether or not there is merit in the proposed JIU increases. In our view, the budget submission process as undertaken currently is an impediment to the work of the JIU and seriously curtails the independence of the Unit. We therefore ask you to take a firm position on allowing the Unit to present its budget proposal directly via the ACABQ to this Committee, together with the comments of the Secretary-General.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

15. You have before you the elements for an informed discussion and an opportunity to recognize the important role of an effective oversight in line with an evolving system. I express the Unit's trust that you will be able to consider its request to fully protect its budgetary independence positively.
16. I thank you, Mr Chairman and am prepared to answer any questions you or the Committee may have.