



**United Nations General Assembly Sixty-Seventh Session**

**Fifth Committee**

**Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General on the Report of the  
Joint Inspection Unit titled “The investigation function in the United Nations system”  
(A/67/140/Add.1)**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of the Secretary-General and the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the Note of the Secretary-General on The investigation function in the United Nations system (A/67/140/Add.1). The Note responds to the report before the Committee, submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit, which reviewed progress made in strengthening the investigation function in organizations of the United Nations system over the past decade.

The accompanying Note of the Secretary-General set out the views of UN system organizations on the recommendations provided by the Joint Inspection Unit. The views of the system have been consolidated on the basis of inputs provided by member organizations of the CEB. Organizations of the UN system generally accept some of the recommendations of the report which are aimed at strengthening the investigation function in organizations of the United Nations system. They note, however, that some recommendations are not applicable to small agencies that do not have separate investigation units. They also note that there is a need for further clarification in some areas of the report, such as on issues related to personnel and performance.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

While the responses from the organizations of the United Nations system are before you, I would like to highlight recommendations one and eight which has profound implications for some organizations. Recommendation one is of great concern to the internal oversight body of

the United Nations Secretariat which noted the logistical and financial implications of assigning to it executive authority over the investigation function may not have been fully considered by the Joint Inspection Unit. Implementation of recommendation one would require significant resources to ensure continuing management accountability for proactive preventive measures that fall outside of prohibited conduct in the workplace.

Notwithstanding the reservations expressed, organizations concurred with the Unit that there is a risk to the Organization when matters of investigation are investigated by non-professionals. Nonetheless, organizations note their strong support for the recommendation that they consolidate all investigations in the internal oversight entities, given that it will introduce greater professionalism into the investigation processes.

With regard to recommendation eight, while organizations welcome this recommendation in principle, they note that the establishment of a single consolidated United Nations system investigation unit would require agreement from their legislative and governing bodies in addition to the need to revise mandates of all existing investigative units in all the organizations concerned and the concurrence of organizations that do not have investigative units that a single consolidated United Nations system investigation unit would have jurisdiction over them.

Organizations highlight the significant barriers to establishing a single consolidated United Nations system investigation unit given the short time-frame called for in the Unit report, the diverse nature of the organizations particularly with regard to staff regulations, legal frameworks, investigation guidelines and financial rules and regulations in each organization, the challenge for a centralized unified investigation function to satisfactorily meet the unique requirements of diverse system of organizations with a lack the specialized knowledge required.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the organizations of the United Nations system. We look forward to supporting you on this process and we will be guided by the advice from the Committee.