



Check Against Delivery

United Nations General Assembly Sixty-Ninth Session

Fifth Committee

**Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Joint  
Inspection Unit “Review of the long-term agreements in procurement in the United  
Nations system”**

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 “Review of long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system”, found in document A/69/73/Add.1.

Organizations of the UN system welcomed this report, finding it informative, and agree with its assessment that moving the UN system to a more strategic footing for procurement, rather than a largely transaction one, would prove useful. Organizations note that, for the most part, the use of long-term agreements across the system is already extremely efficient, with some variations on process that is dependent on individual organizational environments and suggest that common specifications would allow for greater leveraging and value through aggregation.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see in the note by the Secretary-General, agencies generally welcomed the recommendations, although not without reservation for several

of them. Organizations, for example, fully agree with recommendation 1 regarding development of specific policies and guidelines for the strategic use of long-term agreements.

In other cases, agencies agree with the overall substance of the recommendation, but express some concern regarding its implementation. We see an example of this in recommendation 4, regarding contract management plans. While agencies agree with the importance of contract management plans, they note that implementing all of the suggested mechanisms may not always result in a substantial benefit, especially for smaller organizations. Also as you see in recommendation 4, organizations strongly agree with the call for support to the inter-agency mechanisms, such as the procurement and legal networks, but they also express concern regarding the harmonization of general terms and conditions, suggesting that in some cases the required resources, time and effort needed to achieve such harmonization may not result in any significant gain.

In closing, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the organizations of the UN system, I would like to thank the JIU for this report, which covered a topic of interest to CEB members and importance to the entire UN system. I reiterate that organizations of the system found much value in the report.

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

Thank you