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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**Agenda item 131**

**Financial reports and audited financial statements,  
and reports of the Board of Auditors**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of  
the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on  
the United Nations and on the United Nations funds and programmes  
for the year ended 31 December 2014 (A/70/338 and Add.1)**

**Statement by**

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**14 October 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Before introducing the Secretary-General's report, allow me to convey a message from the Controller who apologises for not being here today. She had planned to introduce this report and was looking forward to attending this session, but

she was requested to accompany the Secretary-General to another meeting taking place concurrently.

On behalf of the Controller, I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors (the Board) contained in its reports on the United Nations and on the United Nations funds and programmes for the year ended 31 December 2014, which are being submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/216 B of 23 December 1993.

The report of the Secretary-General on the funds and programmes provides further information to the comments already submitted to the Board, which in some cases were included in the Board's final reports to the executive heads of the respective funds and programmes. It also includes information on the status of implementation, the office responsible, the estimated completion date and the priority for each recommendation contained in the respective reports of the Board; as well as an update on the status of implementation of the recommendations relating to prior periods that the Board considered not to have been fully implemented.

The executive heads have concurred with most of the Board's recommendations and have made every effort to ensure compliance with the General Assembly's request with regard to the implementation of the Board's recommendations.

With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Board for the year ended 31 December 2014 on the United Nations (A/70/5 (Vol. I)), the Administration accepted all of the Board's recommendations. The report of the Secretary-General provides comments on the recommendations in the Board's report from the Administration's perspective; as well as information on the status of implementation, the department responsible, the estimated completion date and the priority for each recommendation. It also includes updated information on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board relating to prior periods that were reported by the Board as not having been fully implemented.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this is the first time that all the entities audited by the Board have presented IPSAS-compliant financial statements. Besides the United Nations which produced 12 IPSAS-compliant financial statements for the first time for the year ended 31 December 2014, FAO and UNWTO also produced their first IPSAS-compliant statements for 2014, thus marking a major milestone for the United Nations system organizations have received unqualified (clean) audit opinions from their external auditors for all the IPSAS-compliant financial statements so far.

With regards to the United Nations Secretariat, this Committee should note that of the 140 recommendations relating to the three previous biennia, 84 (60 per cent)

were fully implemented; 37 (26 per cent) were under implementation; and 19 (14 per cent) had been closed by the Board or overtaken by events as of April 2015.

In paragraph 93 and annex III of the concise summary of the principal findings and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors for the annual financial period 2014 (A/70/322), the Board noted that as at 30 March 2015, out of the total of 526 extant recommendations made to the United Nations and its funds and programmes for the period up to year 2013 (up to June 2014 for United Nations peacekeeping operations), 261 recommendations (49.6 per cent) had been fully implemented, 206 recommendations (39.2 per cent) were under implementation, 29 recommendations (5.5 per cent) had not been implemented and the other 30 recommendations (5.7 per cent) had either been overtaken by events, reiterated or closed by the Board.

With regard to prioritization, the Board categorizes the most important recommendations as “main” recommendations. While all accepted recommendations of the Board of Auditors will be implemented in a timely manner, the main recommendations will be given a higher priority.

Please allow me, Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, to express on behalf of the Secretary-General, his sincere appreciation to the Board of Auditors for the professionalism and constructive spirit in which it discharges its oversight function. The Administration remains confident that its commitment to the timely and thorough

implementation of the Board's recommendations will contribute to the improved management of resources and increased efficiency of the United Nations and its funds and programmes.

Finally, I would like take this opportunity to express my appreciation to colleagues from the various Departments of the United Nations Secretariat and from the funds and programmes for their cooperation during the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General. Representatives of both the United Nations Secretariat and the funds and programmes will be available during the informal consultations to respond to the questions the distinguished Delegates of the Committee might have regarding the reports of the Secretary-General.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.