



Check Against Delivery

United Nations General Assembly Seventieth Session

Fifth Committee

Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit “Records and archives management in the United Nations”

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 “Records and archives management in the United Nations” found in document A/70/280/Add.1.

Organizations of the UN system welcomed this report, finding it informative and thorough, and consider it a valuable contribution to strengthening the records and archives environment within their organizations and across the UN system. Organizations especially appreciate that the report highlights the importance of records preservation and institutional memory.

Mr. Chairman, you can see in the note of the Secretary-General that organizations had some difficulty with specific technical areas of the report. For example, while organizations of the UN system agreed with a joint project approach to digital records management, they also pointed out that each individual organization was approaching information management in a holistic manner, included elements that go beyond just

records retention and archiving. And therefore, while a common approach might be helpful in some areas, each organization needed to address the challenge within its own environment.

Regarding the recommendations contained in the report, organizations were generally supportive. They supported the call for a review of regulatory frameworks that govern records and archives management, as called for in recommendation 1, noting that the rapid increase in electronic documents presented cost and other concerns if left unmanaged. Organizations also agreed with the need for training of staff in records retention policies and practices, they also stressed the importance of legislative bodies support for these types of training.

Mr. Chairman, the overall consensus from organizations was that the recommendations provided a useful roadmap for improvement in records and archives functions.

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