



Check Against Delivery

United Nations General Assembly Seventy-First Session

Fifth Committee

Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General (A/71/731/Add.1) on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit “Fraud prevention, detection and response in United Nations system organizations”

Madam Chair, 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 “Fraud prevention, detection and response in United Nations system organizations” found in document A/71/731/Add.1.

Organizations of the United Nations system welcome this report, which they note is the most recent of several that focus on administrative reform and oversight. Recognizing the significant risk posed by fraud, organizations consider the report a valuable contribution to efforts aimed at increasing transparency and strengthening anti-fraud measures in the United Nations system. In their comments on this report, organizations unambiguously acknowledge the responsibility of all personnel to apply anti-fraud measures, universally support the vigorous pursuit of all fraud allegations, agree with the importance of whistle-blower protection and note the importance of supporting oversight offices in their efforts to combat fraud and corruption.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, as you can see from the note of the Secretary-General, while they support the thrust of the recommendations, in their general comments organizations noted the need to recognize the impact some of these recommendations would have on resources required for implementation, especially for smaller entities which, by virtue of

their size, generally experience fewer fraud-related allegations. Nevertheless, as you can see, organizations generally welcome and accept the sixteen recommendations presented in the report. For example, they support the harmonization of common definitions regarding fraudulent and corrupt practices, updating anti-fraud policies so they align with best practices, implementing anti-fraud training and developing comprehensive organization-specific anti-fraud strategies for implementing these policies, to name a few. As you may also note, for some of the recommendations organizations expressed a diversity of views on the nuances of implementing the recommendation, in some cases expressing alternatives that may be considered. It was further suggested that the approach taken to implement some of the recommendations may hinge on the outcome of recommendation 5, which calls for a comprehensive risk analysis. It was noted that only after a comprehensive risk assessment could each entity determine the appropriate cost-benefit of the recommendations.

These general remarks aside, it is clear that the UN system found the report useful and clearly describe the challenges that all organizations need to consider. 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.

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

Thank you