



Check Against Delivery

United Nations General Assembly Seventy-First Session

Fifth Committee

Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General (A/70/676/Add.1) on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit “Contract management and administration in the United Nations system”

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 “Contract management and administration in the United Nations system” found in document A/70/676/Add.1.

Noting that effective management of contracts is a fundamental institutional practice, organizations of the UN system welcome this report. They expressed support for many of the recommendations as well as their intention to strengthen contract management policies and procedures by applying the lessons learned that the report contains.

At the same time, as you see in the note of the Secretary-General, some organizations noted that, given the small scale of their procurement activities, some of the recommendation may not be practical for them to implement.

Regarding the individual recommendations, organizations express overall support for them, although many UN system entities also noted the need to tailor implementation to their specific circumstances. They note, for example, that some recommendations would benefit from conducting cost-benefit assessments to ensure that any expenses related to implementation would result in quantifiable benefits. For instance, Recommendation 3, which calls for a system of

written notification, has support from organizations but they also suggest that in some cases this may go beyond what is necessary in some cases. Other recommendations, however, have the full support of UN system entities, although some entities indicate that implementation may depend on available resources.

These comments aside, it is clear from their responses that the overall view of organizations was that many of the recommendations offered a constructive approach to addressing challenges faced by organizations when managing contracts.

In closing, Madam Chair, 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