



Check Against Delivery

**United Nations General Assembly Seventy-third Session  
Fifth Committee**

**Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General  
on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled:  
“Review of mechanisms and policies addressing conflict of interest  
in the United Nations system”**

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my pleasure today 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 mechanisms and policies addressing conflict of interest in the United Nations system” as contained in A/73/187/Add.1.

Organizations of the United Nations system welcomed the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, praised its rich overview and inventory of best practices and experiences, and noted its relevant and useful recommendations aimed at strengthening the regulatory frameworks on conflict of interest.

Organizations supported some of the recommendations and noted that their implementation would require more resources than ethics offices currently have. In reference to those recommendations addressed to the Governing Bodies (i.e. 3 and 6) some pointed to the distinct role that governing bodies have in exercising their oversight and strategic guidance function vis-

à-vis that of the executive heads on issues concerning the monitoring of conflicts of interest and related staff accountability.

Organizations acknowledged the dynamic and changing nature of conflicts of interest in the course of staff members career and how there may be no conflict of interest at the time of declaration or appointment, but be faced with a conflict of interest at a later point in time. Organizations also concurred on the importance of conducting pre-appointment vetting for conflicts of interest and raising the awareness of all staff, at the time of recruitment and subsequently, on their obligation to report potential conflicts and resolve them with their supervisors.

In reference to post-employment and the “revolving doors” phenomenon, organizations concurred with the finding that it would be difficult to monitor and enforce post-separation restrictions (paras. 177 and 178); however, they also commented that the report did not provide any background or analysis to demonstrate the appropriateness or effectiveness of restrictive covenants in employment contracts to deal with conflicts of interest or the “revolving doors” phenomenon.

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 as.

Thank you.