

STATEMENT TO THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First resumed 73rd Session

Agenda Item 142:

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2018 and Programme of Work for 2019 (A/73/34)

11 March 2019

Chair, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Joint Inspection Unit, I have the honor to introduce the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2018 and programme of work for 2019. This is contained in document A/73/34.

In 2018, the Unit submitted seven reports, one addressing a single organization and six system-wide. A management and administration review of UNAIDS that had been planned for 2018 needed to be suspended due to other reviews that the Organization was engaged with at the same time. It has been resumed in 2019. This Committee will be taking up one of those reports, on whistleblower policies and practices, later this month, while deferring its consideration of the report on internships to the 74th session.

The Unit's programme of work 2019 comprises 8 new projects - six system-wide and two single organization reviews. The portfolio not only responds to the longstanding expectation that the JIU contribute to the efficient use of resources and effective management practices, but reflects the linkage between improved management practices and efficiency and the realization of substantive objectives. Reviews of outsourcing, inter-agency staff mobility, learning policies and strategies, and of common premises illustrate different facets of this point. Our planned review of enterprise risk management in the UN system builds on the Unit's longstanding contribution to this issue at the nexus of management and accountability. A review of multilingualism reflects its nature as a core value and will examine progress in mainstreaming that. At different stages during the year, the Unit will initiate two individual organization reviews.

The relevance of the topics in the Unit's programme of work benefitted from continued inputs from organizations and from coordination with other oversight bodies. In strengthening the dialogue with organizations, several meetings have been held in 2018 with heads of organizations and departments and many more are planned for 2019. JIU held its biennial meeting with its Focal Points of organizations three weeks ago and this has provided valuable input for improving alignment of the JIU's programme of work with the priorities of participating organizations and for strengthening the working relationships.

The value of the reports and notes of the Unit depends primarily on the effective use of its products, mainly through the implementation by organizations of the JIU recommendations. The rate of implementation of accepted recommendations by participating organizations has increased over the years and is currently at 85 per cent. Overall, this is a satisfactory result considering complexities in system-wide reviews that cover a diverse range of organizations that vary in size and organizational models. This outcome is driven by several factors including the increased responsiveness of the JIU to demands by stakeholders, the relevance and quality of JIU products, and the focussed efforts by organizational leadership for improvement. The resolutions of the General Assembly emphasizing the need for legislative organs and governing bodies to give full

consideration to the reports and recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, have also been a significant factor.

It is however important to note that the high average rate of implementation hides variations among organizations. While effective consideration and use of the Unit's reports and recommendations has improved in many organizations, some organizations are lagging behind. To increase the rate of implementation across the UN system, the General Assembly may reiterate its request to all executive heads and invite other legislative bodies to give full consideration to the reports and the use of the recommendations of the JIU.

In accordance with article 5 (4) of the JIU statute, the Unit will continue efforts to support the evaluation function of United Nations system organizations and to engage in the dialogue on independent system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development in line with General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

To conclude, I would like to inform you that the Unit is preparing this year its Strategic Framework for 2020-2029 and a medium-term plan for 2020-2024. This significant activity provides the opportunity for the Unit to reflect on how it can best, within its mandate, add value, to assess and draw lessons from its performance under the Strategic Framework for 2010-2019, and to more systematically align its work with United Nations system-wide priorities addressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ongoing reforms. The Unit is receiving inputs from various stakeholders on strategic priorities and on delivery modalities and would welcome inputs from this important body. The Strategic Framework for 2020-2029 will be presented to you in 2020.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

The JIU fills a unique niche in the oversight arrangements of the United Nations system which provides the opportunity for us to draw insights of value from the horizontal system-wide lens that no one else wears. We remain determined and committed to realize that opportunity and meet your expectations.

I look forward to answering questions now or in the informal consultations.