

Check against delivery

Agenda Item 136: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

9 March 2022

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**Secretary-General's eleventh progress report on accountability:
strengthening accountability in the United Nations Secretariat (A/76/644)**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honor to present, on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, the report of the Secretary-General entitled, "Eleventh progress report on accountability: strengthening accountability in the United Nations Secretariat."

The report provides information to demonstrate that the focus on strengthening a culture of accountability at all levels of the Secretariat for effective mandate delivery has continued throughout 2021. As the new management paradigm continues to take root in the Secretariat, senior managers have been empowered

to deliver on their mandates, with the expectation that they do so in a transparent, responsible and accountable manner. At the same time, the Secretariat remains committed to Member States to be transparent, responsible and accountable in its stewardship of the resources of the Organization and in delivering on agreed mandates. This calls for a continuous reinforcement of the principle of accountability and an assurance that the approved internal control mechanisms and the mandated oversight are proving effective.

The enhancement of the accountability framework for monitoring delegation of authority was a priority during 2021. A revised and expanded set of key performance indicators were developed for monitoring the use of delegation of authority, and a phased implementation of the indicators continues.

The first statement on internal control was signed by the Secretary-General in May 2021 and published on reform.un.org in the six official languages of the United Nations. Based on the self-assessment questionnaire and key performance indicators, as well as recommendations of internal and external oversight bodies, heads of entities provided assurance on the efficacy of the internal controls in the areas under their responsibility. No significant control issues were identified while opportunities for improvement were identified in some areas.

To promote an organization-wide understanding of accountability, the annual Leadership Dialogue for 2021 led by the Ethics Office focused on accountability. Every team throughout the Secretariat discussed the question: “The

Accountability System in the United Nations Secretariat: How do we understand and make it work?”.

The “Values and Behaviours Framework” was introduced to guide how relationships are built within the Organization, how staff members perform their jobs in an accountable way and how they experience the Organization on a daily basis.

The Department of Operational Support continued its efforts to enhance the performance of senior leadership, providing organizational governance and resource stewardship training to heads of entities and their senior leadership team.

In this eleventh progress report, the Secretary-General provides an update on the latest efforts made by the Secretariat to strengthen its accountability system.

Following the introduction in Section I of the report, section II provides an overview of progress made in the implementation of the accountability system of the Secretariat, which includes measures taken to enhance the culture of accountability in the Secretariat and to strengthen the Secretariat’s accountability system under its six components. These include areas such as advancing the implementation of results-based management, strengthening enterprise risk management and the use of evaluation, and addressing conduct and discipline issues in terms of prevention, enforcement and remedial actions, among others.

Sections III and IV of the report contain conclusions and recommendations. In addition, the report includes three annexes:

- Annex I contains the status of implementation of resolutions on administrative and budgetary matters, adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.
- Annex II includes a summary of the progress made in the implementation of results-based management; and
- Annex III provides the cumulative rate of implementation of recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services issued since 2010.

As can be seen from the report, the Secretariat has made steady progress in reinforcing accountability as a central pillar of effective and efficient management. The Secretariat remains fully committed to working with all stakeholders in a process of continuous improvement in 2022 and beyond.

The Secretariat looks forward to receiving the Committee's advice and decision on this important subject.

Thank you very much.