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Committee for Programme and Coordination

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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(Item 3 (b))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1. During its sixty-first session, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/AC.51/2021/5](#)).
2. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. A representative of OIOS provided introductory remarks and, together with the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report and the recommendations made therein and for the acceptance by the Department of those recommendations and its work to implement them. A delegation noted that they provided good guidance to enhance the Department's mandate delivery and internal management. Appreciation was expressed for the opportunity to utilize the findings to understand where there was room for future improvement. In that regard, a delegation asked whether the recommendations could be used to inform the current programme budget proposal or would provide further opportunities for the Department to improve its work.
4. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the Department and its work, including the unique value that it added as a global convenor on development issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and as a thought leader on key global



policy issues, as well as its role in the context of supporting efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. Delegations noted the importance of strategic planning and highlighted concern about the finding related to the need for the Department to do more to enhance its capacity to formulate its strategy. Referring to paragraph 40 of the report, a delegation asked how the Department was tackling the strategic planning challenge and how the associated recommendation (recommendation 1, made in paragraph 64 of the report) was being implemented.

6. Some delegations noted the importance of the issues raised in the report relating to internal coherence and requested more information on work to ensure improvements in that area. A delegation noted its alignment with the recommendation related to strengthening internal linkages in the three functional areas of intergovernmental support, research and analysis and capacity development support in order to improve comprehensive strategic planning, programme monitoring and evaluation.

7. A delegation noted the great need and urgency associated with the unique role of the Department in support of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the action necessary to combat the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and promote sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and growth.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the evaluation results, conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.**

9. **The Committee acknowledged that, in the report, OIOS recognized the unique role played by the Department as a global convener in effectively supporting Member States' progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, recommending that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to continue efforts in that regard.**

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations made therein.**