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Agenda item 121

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations system common services at Geneva

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/255 of 7 April 2000,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “The United Nations system common services at Geneva, part II: Case studies (ICC, JMS, TES, DPS, JPS)”,¹ and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the Administrative Committee on Coordination² thereon,³

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General⁴ submitted pursuant to paragraph 9 of its resolution 54/255,

Having further considered the information contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁵

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit¹ and the comments of the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon;²

¹ A/55/856.

² In its decision 2001/321 of 24 October 2001, the Economic and Social Council changed the name of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

³ A/55/856/Add.1.

⁴ A/56/417/Rev.1.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/56/7)*, paras. 124, I.68 and VIII, 97-VIII.103.



2. *Reiterates* that the use of common services at Geneva should be one of many tools available to organizations and managers to obtain goods and services in the most efficient and effective manner;

3. *Encourages* the organizations concerned, in their continued efforts further to expand areas of cooperative arrangements, to give priority to those services that lend themselves to common delivery using the criteria of efficiency, productivity and cost effectiveness and, where feasible, to take into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,¹ bearing in mind also the distinct mandates, roles, tasks and rules of each participating individual organization;

4. Welcomes the comments and views contained in the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁵ in particular regarding telecommunications and information technology services, conference services, printing and publishing, as well as general administration;

5. *Notes* the efforts made to date by the Geneva-based organizations of the United Nations system in the enhancement of common services, and encourages them to pursue, on a more structured approach, the improvement of existing common services and development of new common approaches, within the framework of the Management Ownership Committee and the Task Force on Common Services and its working groups;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the Management Ownership Committee, when determining the scope and pace of implementation of common services arrangements at Geneva, to adopt streamlined consultation procedures that would promote timely agreement on what services should be delivered in common or jointly, with a view to the possible full launching of the plan of action for Geneva common services earlier than the targeted year of 2010;

7. *Invites* the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to monitor progress in the development and consolidation of common services at Geneva, and at other duty stations where the United Nations system offices and agencies are established, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in the context of its annual report;

Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.
