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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Implementation of the recommendations
of the Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, requested the Secretary-General to submit annually to the General Assembly a succinct report on those major recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit affecting the United Nations which had not been implemented, together with the reasons therefor. At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/199, by which it decided that the future reports of the Secretary-General on implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit should provide concise information only with regard to those reports that have been indicated by the Unit to be of interest to the General Assembly, one of its Main Committees or its other subsidiary organs. This report is submitted in accordance with these decisions.

2. Consequently, in this report the Secretary-General has included the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit relating to the following reports:

(a) Report on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/35/181);

(b) Status of women in the Professional category and above: a progress report (A/35/182).

(c) Third report on the implementation of the personnel policy reforms approved by the General Assembly in 1974 (A/35/418);

(d) Report on evaluation of the translation process in the United Nations system (A/35/294).

Report on the United Nations Institute
for Training and Research.

3. By resolution 35/427, the General Assembly took note of the JIU report on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (JIU/REP/79/18). In paragraphs 99-103, covering recommendations on organization and staff, the JIU had recommended that the Project on the Future be merged into a reconstituted Department of Research. After carefully considering this recommendation at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the Board of Trustees of UNITAR decided to retain the Project on the Future as a separate unit within UNITAR, while consolidating all other programmes into two main divisions - the Research Department and the Training Department. The Board of Trustees considered that the Project on the Future, as originally constituted, was too distinct in scope, purpose and character to be usefully merged into the Research Department at present. The JIU had also recommended the phasing out of the Geneva Office of UNITAR and had suggested that its essential function be performed by New York based staff or by contract personnel. While the Geneva Office has not been closed, it has been reduced to a small liaison unit comprising an official financed from special purpose grants and an administrative assistant paid partly from UNITAR's General Fund. Selected programmes in Geneva and elsewhere in Europe are to be carried out with the help of New York based personnel.

4. In paragraphs 109-110, covering recommendations on funding, the JIU had recommended that the most suitable, although recognizably difficult, solution to the funding problem would be for UNITAR to have a core budget financed by the United Nations regular budget, supplemented by voluntary contributions. At its nineteenth session, the UNITAR Board of Trustees accepted this recommendation. The General Assembly, at its thirty-fifth session, considered this proposal but was unable to accept the idea of a core budget involving a departure from the principle of voluntary contributions in the case of UNITAR. The JIU also recommended that UNITAR seek reimbursement for services rendered by it. Any services rendered by UNITAR to organizations of the United Nations system are reciprocated in one form or another, thus obviating the need for financial reimbursement. As regards advisory services to governmental institutions, there has been no problem as they are in all cases covered by special purpose grants. In addition, the JIU had recommended that UNITAR be entrusted with the role of "executing agency" for UNDP-financed projects. UNITAR had accepted this recommendation and would welcome a reconsideration of the existing arrangements as described in the comments of the Secretary-General on the JIU Report (A/35/131/Add.1, paragraph 8).

5. In paragraph 113, regarding co-operation with the United Nations University, the JIU recommended that UNITAR and the UNU establish a formal framework for co-operation. As a result of consultations between the Executive Director of UNITAR and the Rector of UNU and consideration of the relationship question by the UNITAR Board of Trustees and the UNU Council, it was decided that there would be no need at present for any statutory arrangements. As the Executive Director of UNITAR was already an ex officio member of the UNU Council, it was considered sufficient for the Executive Director to extend a standing invitation to the

Director to participate in the session of the UNITAR Board of Trustees under article III of the UNITAR Statute.

Status of women in the Professional category
in the Progress report

6. Since the JIU report on the Status of women in the Professional category and above (JIU/REP/80/4), transmitted to the General Assembly in document A/35/182, did not concern the United Nations alone, the respective executive heads, under article 11.4 (c) of the JIU's Statute, co-ordinated their comments within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. As a result, the Secretary-General transmitted the comments of the ACC in document A/35/182/Add.1. In paragraph 3 of its comment, the ACC noted that the report did not contain any new substantive policy recommendations. The Comments of the organizations therefore paralleled and to some extent repeated those made with regard to a previous report on women in the Professional category in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/77/7).

7. The General Assembly, having taken note of the JIU's report (JIU/REP/80/4), made, in section V of its resolution 35/210, a number of requests to the Secretary-General and executive heads of the other organizations of the United Nations system. The Secretary-General has reported on this question in section V of his report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/36/495).

Third report on the implementation of the personnel policy
reforms approved by the General Assembly in 1974

8. The main recommendations of the JIU's third report on the implementation of the personnel policy reforms approved by the General Assembly in 1974 (JIU/REP/80/9), which were transmitted to the General Assembly by document A/35/418, are summarized in paragraph 22 in the report of the JIU to the thirty-sixth session (A/36/34). The disposition of this third report is indicated in paragraph 23 of the JIU's report as follows:

"The report was sent on 4 September 1980 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for action and for information to the executive heads of the other participating organizations. It was considered by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in conjunction with a report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/10) and led to the adoption of resolution 35/210.

9. The Secretary-General has reported to the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 35/210 in his report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/36/495).

Report on evaluation of the translation process
in the United Nations system

10. The General Assembly took note of the JIU report on evaluation of the translation process in the United Nations system in resolution 35/427. The comments of the Advisory Committee on Co-ordination (A/35/294/Add.1) which accompanied this JIU report included, either specifically or by identification with the overall system comments, the observations of the Secretary-General on the recommendations as they might apply to the United Nations. Since the General Assembly did not direct the implementation of any of the JIU recommendations as such, it is presumed that the Assembly also accepted the Secretary-General's observations.

11. In that context, only two of the recommendations can be identified as not being implemented. Those recommendations in the report which can be implemented by the Secretary-General on his own authority have been either implemented or will be implemented to the extent that budgetary restraints and other considerations permit. The two that are perhaps describable as not being implemented would require action by the General Assembly and other principal organs:

- (i) Recommendation 1 (3). Organizations should re-examine their planning and decision-making procedures to make certain that they are designed to make effective use of the scarce and costly translation resources. Consideration should be given to more effective use of workload forecasts and quota systems

12. The question of control and limitation of documentation is the subject of much discussion in a number of the bodies of the United Nations and, to that extent, the planning and procedures for making certain that scarce and costly translation resources are being made effective use of are being re-examined. Pending any concrete outcome of these reviews, the Secretary-General is attempting to ensure more effective use of workload forecasts through internal management procedures. As to the question of a quota system for documentation as described in paragraph 32 of the JIU report, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, any such arrangement would require legislative approval. In paragraphs 7 and 8 of its comments, the ACC has stated its reasoning to the effect that the application of the quota system in United Nations circumstances would not be considered feasible.

- (ii) Recommendation 3. Financial incentives which the organizations offer to staff to learn additional languages should be made equally available to translation staff

13. As indicated in paragraph 12 of the ACC comments, this recommendation found little support among the organizations. No action has been taken by the General Assembly to implement this recommendation.