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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Joint Inspection Unit” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.
2. During the first part of the resumed seventy-fifth session, the Fifth Committee met formally and remotely owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, during which it considered the item. The Committee formally considered the item in person at its 11th meeting, on 26 March 2021. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s formal consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.¹
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020 and programme of work for 2021 ([A/75/34](#));
 - (b) Note by the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020 ([A/75/725](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.25](#)

4. At its 11th meeting, on 26 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Joint Inspection Unit” ([A/C.5/75/L.25](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Philippines.
5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.25](#) without a vote (see para. 6).

¹ [A/C.5/75/SR.11](#).



III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions [31/192](#) of 22 December 1976, [50/233](#) of 7 June 1996, [54/16](#) of 29 October 1999, [56/245](#) of 24 December 2001, [57/284 A and B](#) of 20 December 2002, [58/286](#) of 8 April 2004, [59/267](#) of 23 December 2004, [60/258](#) of 8 May 2006, [61/238](#) of 22 December 2006, [61/260](#) of 4 April 2007, [62/226](#) of 22 December 2007, [62/246](#) of 3 April 2008, [63/272](#) of 7 April 2009, [64/262](#) of 29 March 2010, [65/270](#) of 4 April 2011, [66/259](#) of 9 April 2012, [67/256](#) of 12 April 2013, [68/266](#) of 9 April 2014, [69/275](#) of 2 April 2015, [70/257](#) of 1 April 2016, [71/281](#) of 6 April 2017, [72/269](#) of 4 April 2018 and [73/287](#) of 15 April 2019,

Reaffirming the statute of the Unit¹ and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Unit for 2020 and programme of work for 2021² and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2020,³

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2020 and programme of work for 2021;

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2020;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the oversight functions of the Unit in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions within the participating organizations and providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations to improve and strengthen the governance of the United Nations as a whole;

4. *Recognizes* that the effectiveness of the Unit system-wide is a shared responsibility of the Unit, the Member States and the secretariats of the participating organizations;

5. *Also recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the impact of the Unit on the management efficiency and transparency of the participating organizations within the United Nations system;

6. *Welcomes* the coordination of the Unit with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, and encourages those bodies to continue to share experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies, as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, with a view to avoiding overlap or duplication and achieving further synergy, cooperation, effectiveness and efficiency, without prejudice to the respective mandates of the audit and oversight bodies;

¹ Resolution [31/192](#), annex.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/75/34)*.

³ [A/75/725](#).

7. *Encourages* the Unit to continue its efforts to enhance accountability, oversight and governance of the United Nations;

8. *Invites* the legislative bodies of participating organizations to effectively use the reports of the Unit, and to give timely and due consideration to its recommendations, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the statute of the Unit, and requests the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to invite participating organizations within the United Nations system to regularly review the status of acceptance and implementation of the recommendations of the Unit, especially those related to system-wide coordination and coherence, and to consider reporting explanations for non-acceptance and non-implementation to the Unit;

9. *Welcomes* the implementation of the strategic framework for the period 2020–2029 of the Joint Inspection Unit,⁴ stresses the need to continuously update and improve the strategic framework, taking into account the dynamics and challenges, including those related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and ongoing reform efforts, and requests the Unit to report on its outreach strategy to familiarize the leadership of participating organizations with the strategic framework and to exchange information on the work of participating organizations in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ as well as emerging challenges;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the performance plan established to monitor and assess the implementation of the strategic framework, as well as the intention of the Unit to make a comprehensive midpoint assessment in 2024, and encourages it to report on the progress of the strategic framework, including its targets, annually and to consider improving the individual performance measures;

11. *Requests* the Unit to provide the Secretariat with its reports in a timely manner in order to ensure their simultaneous translation in all the official languages of the United Nations, well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized in their deliberations;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Unit to improve the quality of its reports, including their readability and timeliness, and encourages the Unit to seek feedback regularly from participating organizations regarding the quality and utility of its products and to utilize it for enhancing the efficiency of its work;

13. *Encourages* the Unit to continue to identify projects that support better governance and oversight, continuous improvement and collaboration across the United Nations system;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to continue to focus its reports on priority items of the participating organizations and the States Members of the United Nations, including by taking into consideration the programme of work of the General Assembly, with the aim of providing the Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with thematic reports of the Unit that can be used to maximum effect;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the use of an accessible web-based tracking system by the Unit to monitor the status of recommendations, encourages the Unit to continue to enhance the system, including the use of statistical analysis to improve acceptance and implementation of the recommendations, within existing resources,

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/74/34)*, annex I.

⁵ Resolution 70/1.

and requests the Unit to include in the annex to its annual report yearly statistics on the status of acceptance and implementation by participating organizations, according to the intended impact categories as defined in the web-based tracking system;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the recommendations of the Unit, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it.
