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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Flor Acconciamezza de RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject-matters assigned to the other Committees would be referred also to those Committees.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, 1/ a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the work programme of the Unit for 1988 (A/43/161), the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit (A/43/556) and the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of the first part of its twenty-eighth session (A/43/16 (Part I)). 2/

3. The Committee also had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Autonomous research institutes of the United Nations" (A/42/540) and the related comments of the Secretary-General (A/43/397).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/43/34).

2/ To be issued with Part II as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/43/16).

4. The Committee considered the item at its 4th to 7th and 12th meetings, on 4, 6, 11, 12 and 20 October 1988. Comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/43/SR.4-7 and 12).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. At the 12th meeting, on 20 October, following informal consultations, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/43/L.3).

6. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/43/L.3, without objection (see para. 8).

7. At that meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on autonomous research institutes of the United Nations (A/42/540) and the related comments of the Secretary-General (A/43/397) (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/259 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and, in particular, 42/218 of 21 December 1987,

Having considered the annual report of the Joint Inspection Unit on its activities during the period 1 July 1987 to 30 June 1988, 3/ together with the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit, 4/

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Joint Inspection Unit;

2. Welcomes the measures introduced thus far in improving the quality, effectiveness and presentation of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/218;

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/43/34).

4/ A/43/556.

3. Encourages the Joint Inspection Unit to continue its efforts towards this end, particularly with regard to a section in its annual report on its findings concerning the implementation of its recommendations;

4. Also encourages the Joint Inspection Unit when drawing up future reports to limit where possible the narrative part and to expand the evaluative part therein, while offering recommendations for improvement that are both practical and feasible;

5. Takes note of the proposed work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 1988 and the nucleus of its work programme for 1989-1990; 5/

6. Requests the Joint Inspection Unit to consider a more selective approach in drawing up its work programme with a view towards limiting the quantity and improving the quality of its reports;

7. Invites the Joint Inspection Unit, in considering its other responsibilities, to include in its proposed programme of work the provision of advice to participating organizations on their methods of internal evaluation and the undertaking of more ad hoc evaluations of programmes and activities, with due regard to programmatic aspects identified by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and taking fully into account the mandates of the organizations concerned;

8. Also invites the Joint Inspection Unit in this respect to give greater attention to management, budgetary and administrative issues, including those identified by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its reports on the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and by the Board of Auditors in its audit opinions and reports, as well as those areas of the United Nations system undergoing reform;

9. Requests the Secretary-General and the Joint Inspection Unit, in bringing to the attention of the appropriate bodies of the United Nations all reports of the Unit on matters within their respective spheres of competence, to arrange for the earliest possible introduction of reports of the Unit;

10. Requests the Joint Inspection Unit to recommend new procedures designed to encourage more detailed consideration of its reports by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system;

11. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the improved content and format of his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit; 6/

5/ A/43/161, annex.

6/ A/43/556.

12. Invites the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and in consultation with the Joint Inspection Unit, to ensure the maintenance of an efficient and effective research capability within the secretariat of the Unit;

13. Underlines the importance of the application of the highest standards in selecting candidates for appointment as inspectors, as stipulated in chapter 2 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, 7/ and of giving special emphasis to experience in national or international administrative and financial matters, including management questions and, where possible, knowledge of the United Nations or other international organizations;

14. Also underlines in this respect the importance of the consultation process for reviewing the qualifications of the proposed candidates in accordance with article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of the executive heads of the participating organizations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

16. Requests the Joint Inspection Unit to take into account the guidelines outlined above in finalizing its work programme for 1989-1990 and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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9. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Autonomous research institutes of the United Nations

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on autonomous research institutes of the United Nations 8/ and the related comments of the Secretary-General, 9/

7/ Resolution 31/192, annex.

8/ A/42/540.

9/ A/43/397.