
Industrial Development Board

Forty-ninth session

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

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Report by the Director General

The present document provides information on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in accordance with the follow-up scheme to recommendations in accordance with decision IDB.24/Dec.11.

I. Introduction

1. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) became a subsidiary organ of the Industrial Development Board by its decision IDB.1/Dec.22. A system of follow-up to JIU recommendations was outlined in document IDB.24/18 and subsequently approved in decision IDB.24/Dec.11. In accordance with the provisions therein, JIU reports will be considered by each regular Board session.

II. Reports and notes submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit

2. A total of nine JIU reports¹ were received² by the Organization in 2020 since the previous Board document covering this subject (IDB.48/18). Seven reports as listed below are of relevance to UNIDO:³

JIU/REP/2019/8: Review of staff exchange and similar inter-agency mobility measures in United Nations system organizations;

JIU/REP/2019/9: Review of contemporary practices in the external outsourcing of services to commercial service providers by United Nations system organizations;

¹ JIU reports and notes, as well as the JIU Annual Report to the General Assembly, in all official languages can be accessed via the JIU website www.unjiu.org.

² At the time this report was prepared.

³ See Annex I for further details.

For reasons of economy, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



[JIU/REP/2020/1](#): Review of the state of the investigation function: progress made in the United Nations system organizations in strengthening the investigation function;

[JIU/REP/2020/2](#): Policies and platforms in support of learning: towards more coherence, coordination and convergence;

[JIU/REP/2020/3](#): United Nations common premises: current practices and future prospects;

[JIU/REP/2020/5](#): Enterprise risk management in United Nations system organizations;

[JIU/REP/2020/8](#): Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system.

3. The present document is supplemented with a conference room paper (IDB.49/CRP.4) which includes hyperlinks to the respective JIU reports as well as hyperlinks to the relevant comments on said reports by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). It is recalled that recommendations and statistics applicable to UNIDO are available through the web-based tracking system (WBTS).⁴ The WBTS also includes UNIDO's compliance and comments on recommendations. A summary of recommendations for consideration by the UNIDO Director General and UNIDO legislative bodies, as well as UNIDO comments, is included in IDB.49/CRP.4.

III. Implementation of Joint Inspection Unit recommendations at UNIDO

4. As mentioned in previous reports, Member States can be granted read-only access to the consolidated data on the status of implementation of recommendations on the JIU's WBTS. Interested Member States can register with the JIU through the UNIDO Focal Point for JIU matters in the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight, via email to EIO@unido.org.

5. UNIDO updates the WBTS with pertinent information on recommendations issued in the last three years. This includes information on the recommendation status of acceptance, the status of implementation and the impact achieved.

6. The status of acceptance and implementation for UNIDO for the period 2018–2020 is presented in the table below. It is shown as percentage of recommendations issued.

Table⁵

	Acceptance				Implementation				
	Not relevant	Accepted/ approved	Rejected	Under consideration	No information provided	Not started	In progress	Implemented	No information provided
UNIDO	8.49	66.98	2.83	13.21	8.49	23.94	28.17	40.85	7.04

IV. Specific JIU recommendation needing attention by the Board

7. [JIU/REP/2020/1](#): “Review of the state of the investigation function: progress made in the United Nations system organizations in strengthening the investigation function”, in its recommendation No. 7, requests “the legislative bodies of participating organizations should develop and adopt appropriate formal procedures

⁴ Please refer to paragraph 4 for information regarding access to WBTS.

⁵ As per information contained in the WBTS.

for the investigation of complaints of misconduct by executive heads and adopt appropriate policies by the end of 2021.”

8. Developing effective arrangements for the investigation of allegations against executive heads was discussed at the fifth meeting of United Nations System Oversight Committees from 8 to 9 December 2020. In a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General dated 2 March 2021, the Chair of the network of oversight committees raised the need for specialized agencies to establish more effective and consistent policies and procedures in this regard.

9. For this purpose, the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight will seek advice from the Oversight Advisory Committee and subsequently prepare a proposal for consideration of the Board at its next session.

10. The Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC) has recommended that the Board pay greater attention to implementing JIU recommendations addressed to legislative bodies, in order to enhance the compliance with the provisions of the Statute of JIU Article 11(4), resolution 48/221 of 23 December 1993 of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the latest request from the JIU to all participating organizations dated 15 February 2021: “[...]to submit annually to the Unit the list of reports that will be considered by the UNIDO governing body; the date(s) of the meeting/session and the details of the governing body chairperson for that session. [...]inform the JIU in writing of the decisions taken by the UNIDO governing body in relation to our reports, as required by the statute.”

V. Work programme 2021

11. As in previous years, the JIU invited participating organizations to submit their proposals. Further to these and to internal consultations, the programme of work for 2021 includes seven new reviews. Five of the new reviews are of system-wide or multiple-organization coverage and two relate to management and administrative reviews of a participating organization.

12. The below five new reviews would be of interest to UNIDO:

(a) Review of policies, measures, mechanisms and practices to prevent and address racism and racial discrimination in the United Nations system;

(b) Business continuity policies and practices in United Nations system organizations;

(c) Review of the management of implementing partners in organizations of the United Nations system;

(d) Review of the internal pre-tribunal stage appeal mechanisms available to staff members in the United Nations system organizations; and

(e) Review of accountability frameworks in the United Nations system organizations.

13. UNIDO continues to note with appreciation the close cooperation between the JIU and the Secretariat of the CEB.

VI. Action required of the Board

14. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document and provide specific guidance on the recommendations addressed to UNIDO’s legislative body as summarized in IDB.49/CRP.4, and request to the OAC to continue to follow up on the implementation of relevant JIU recommendations made to policymaking organs and advise the Board.