



United Nations General Assembly

Fifth Committee 72nd Session

Agenda item 143 – JIU/REP/2016/8; A/72/120/Add.1

**STATEMENT BY
INSPECTOR RAJAB SUKAYRI
JOINT INSPECTION UNIT**

5 October 2017

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled “State of the internal audit function in the United Nations system” (JIU/REP/2016/8, contained in document A/72/120).

The JIU welcomes the note of the Secretary-General reflecting his comments and those of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on the recommendations provided in report A/72/120 Add.1.

This system-

internal audit and oversight committee chairs attend the meetings of the governing bodies and are given the opportunity to respond to questions raised about their respective annual reports. It also encourages them “to ensure that the conditions for effective, independent, expert oversight committees are in place and that the committees are fully functional”.

The report recommends, among other things, that executive heads should involve oversight committees and consult with the governing bodies in the appointment and termination of the heads of internal audit.

This review also asserts that internal audit services should allocate adequate resources to professional development of staff, as well as for expanding the use of information technology (IT) auditing techniques. Internal audit services should also increase their use of advanced data analytics and remote auditing to provide more economical and comprehensive audit coverage. Adequate resources should also be allocated to ensure sufficient coverage of high-risk areas and adherence to established auditing cycles, as identified by risk-based audit planning.

The review urges heads of internal audit to conduct external quality assessments of their services at least every five years, in line with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) standards, and share the results with the governing bodies.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

The review also urges heads of internal audit of the United Nations system to develop strategies in order to provide vision and direction as to how internal audit should be strategically positioned within their organizations, and operationalized to achieve their mandates.

The report maintains that the endorsement and implementation of the recommendations contained therein will further consolidate the key role of the internal audit function in the governance of organizations, and as an independent and objective assurance activity.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and look forward to your comments, and those of the distinguished delegates.

End



Thursday, 05 October 2017

Agenda item No. 145 ó Report on the activities of the Office for Internal Oversight Services

Fifth Committee, 72nd Session

Opening statement to the Fifth Committee on the JIU Report

Donor-led assessments of the United Nations system organizations

JIU/REP/2017/2

Gopinathan Achamkulangare

Inspector

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the report on Donor-led assessments of the United Nations system organizations, contained in document A/72/298 of 8 August 2017. The views of the Secretary-General and those of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination are contained in the management response A/72/298/Add.1 of 25 August 2017.

The proportion of earmarked contributions in the mix of funding of the United Nations system organizations has gone up significantly in the past two decades. An important consequence of this shift has been the laying of greater stress by the major contributors on efficiency and effectiveness, as well as transparency and accountability in the use of financial resources. For this purpose, major contributors have been undertaking their own assessments of the capacities, capabilities and performance of the United Nations entities and their programmes to ensure that funds made available are used efficiently, for the intended objectives and with the requisite levels of accountability.

The donor-led assessments are over and above those by the existing oversight and accountability architecture of the organizations themselves. The senior managements and oversight bodies of the organizations have been expressing concerns in recent years about the increase in donor-led assessments.

Most organizations view donor-led assessments as a challenge, requiring them to divert significant amounts of time and resources from their programmes and to incur transaction costs. They point to the high risk of duplication and overlap. On occasion, an organization has to balance response to recommendations identified as priority by a bilateral donor review with the priorities for improvement and reform approved by the governing body. A number of organizations have raised the challenges posed to the single audit principle in the context of the donor-led assessments.

At the same time, many organizations have found the donor assessments to be a useful spur for

opinion. More importantly, they often do so in order to ensure that the funds provided are spent on programmes aligned with their national priorities.

Apart from bilateral donor assessments, the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) comprising 18 donor governments as members conducts performance assessments of the United Nations system organizations. However, this has not prevented some of the MOPAN members from undertaking their own assessments of organizations. Similarly, the European Commission undertakes its assessments of organizations.

Most organizations find that donors do not involve them in the pla

