



Industrial Development Board

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Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

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.

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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 seven JIU reports¹ and two notes were received² by the Organization since the previous Board document covering this subject (IDB.41/16). The five reports and one note listed below are of relevance to UNIDO:

JIU/REP/2012/8 — Review of enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems in United Nations organizations.

JIU/REP/2012/10 — Staff management relations in the United Nations specialized agencies and common system.

JIU/REP/2013/1 — Review of long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system.

JIU/REP/2013/3 — Selection and appointment process for the United Nations Resident Coordinators, including preparation, training and support provided for their work.

JIU/REP/2013/4 — Review of the management of implementing partners in United Nations system organizations.

JIU/Note/2013/1 — Reference checks in the United Nations system organizations.

A further two reports and one note issued by the JIU were not of relevance to UNIDO:

JIU/REP/2012/13 — Review of management and administration in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

JIU/REP/2013/2 — Records and archives managements in the United Nations.

JIU/Note/2013/2 — Review of management and administration in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

3. In order to reduce expenditure, page limits were introduced to documents submitted to the sessions of policymaking organs (Board decision IDB.41/Dec.12 (n)). Therefore, the present document no longer contains a summary of JIU reports and notes of direct relevance to UNIDO. All reports and notes of the JIU are readily available from the JIU website.¹ Furthermore, all recommendations and statistics

¹ JIU reports and notes in all official languages can be accessed via the JIU website www.unjiu.org/.

² At the time this report was prepared.

applicable to UNIDO, as well as UNIDO's compliance and comments on recommendations are available through the web-based tracking system (WBTS).³

4. The reports contain a total of 31 recommendations relevant to UNIDO. UNIDO accepted and complies with 26 of these, five are under consideration.

III. Implementation of Joint Inspection Unit recommendations at UNIDO

5. The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 60/258 of 8 May 2006, requested the JIU to strengthen the follow-up to the implementation of its recommendations, and to include in future annual reports more information on the impact of full implementation of its recommendations. Accordingly, the Unit enhanced its follow-up system through WBTS which is available at the JIU website. Member States can be granted "read-only" access to yearly consolidated data on the status of implementation of recommendations by registering with the JIU through the Focal Point for JIU matters in UNIDO, the Office of Internal Oversight Services.⁴

6. In the last quarter of each year, the JIU requests from, inter alia, UNIDO pertinent information on recommendations issued in the last three years, i.e. status of acceptance (accepted, rejected, under consideration), status of implementation (not started, in progress, implemented) and impact. The JIU then presents the aggregate outcome in its yearly activity report to the United Nations General Assembly.

7. The last status presented by the JIU included recommendations for the period 2010-2013. The status of acceptance and implementation for UNIDO is presented in the table below (in percentage of recommendations issued).

Table⁵

	<i>Acceptance</i>					<i>Implementation</i>			
	<i>Not relevant</i>	<i>Accepted/ approved</i>	<i>Rejected</i>	<i>Under consideration</i>	<i>No information provided</i>	<i>Not started</i>	<i>In progress</i>	<i>Implemented</i>	<i>No information provided</i>
UNIDO	3.23	84.41	8.6	3.23	0.54	0	6.37	85.35	8.28

8. It should be noted that UNIDO remained one of the organizations mentioned by the JIU as showing a "consistently strong performance regarding the status of acceptance (70 per cent and above)" with regard to the status of considerations of reports by its governing bodies.

³ Please refer to paragraph 5 for information regarding access to WBTS.

⁴ Via e-mail: IOS@unido.org.

⁵ As per information contained in WBTS.

IV. Interaction with the Joint Inspection Unit

9. Improving relations with participating organizations continued in 2013, with the Executive Secretary meeting executive heads of six agencies. He also met with various Chairs of Committees in the United Nations Secretariat. In addition, the JIU intensified contacts with Member States in New York and Geneva, met with the Group of 77 and China, the African, Asia and the Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean regional groups, the European Union, the Geneva Group, and with 11 countries individually. Member States were briefed on different aspects of the work of the JIU, the reform efforts and the need for additional resources, both core and extrabudgetary, for specific projects.

10. During their reviews-related visits, the inspectors of the JIU used the opportunity to meet with senior management and focal points of participating organizations and Member States representatives. During those meetings, issues of common concern to the Unit and the participating organizations were discussed, in particular the follow-up to the Unit's recommendations.

V. Work programme 2014

11. In accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/260 of 4 April 2007, by which the Assembly decided to consider jointly the annual report and programme of work of the JIU during the first part of its resumed session, the Unit launched the preparation of its programme of work for 2014 in July 2013.

12. The Unit invited participating organizations to submit their proposals by 2 August 2013. The Unit considered 27 internally validated topics, pre-assessed against established criteria, 25 of which were submitted by participating organizations and two by coordinating and oversight bodies. The Unit also pre-screened three potential management and administration reviews of participating organizations.

13. As part of a consultative process with other oversight and coordinating bodies, these bodies were invited to provide their comments and ratings regarding the topics proposed. Participating organizations were also consulted and invited to comment and express their priorities and preferences with respect to the proposals for 2014. The ratings and comments were considered when the Unit drafted the final 2014 programme of work at its winter session.

14. The programme of work includes ten new projects, of which seven are of system-wide or multiple-organization coverage.

15. The JIU intends to proceed with exploratory work on two additional topics that may be undertaken during the 2014-2015 biennium, subject to the availability of resources and a determination of the scope of the work. The topics are: (a) fraud prevention and detection in the United Nations system; and (b) the integrated global management of the United Nations conference services. A decision on whether to proceed with them will be taken in the summer/fall period of 2014.

16. Of the ten topics on the 2014 work programme, the below eight would be of interest to UNIDO:

(a) Review of safety and security in the United Nations system organizations;

(b) System-wide review of results-based management in the United Nations system: development of maturity matrix and methodology for a review of results-based management in 2015 (phase 1);

(c) Review of public information policies and practices in the United Nations system;

(d) A comprehensive review of activities and resources allocated to climate change within the United Nations system;

(e) Benchmarking framework for management and administration reviews in the United Nations system organizations;

(f) Contract management and administration;

(g) Review of the system-wide implementation of an initiative for full and productive employment and decent work for all;

(h) Support to independent system-wide evaluation — start up.

17. Further, UNIDO continues to note with appreciation the close cooperation between the JIU and the Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

VI. Action required of the Board

18. In 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, and paragraph 9 of the system of UNIDO follow-up to JIU recommendations, the Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document and provide guidance for further concrete action.