
Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

Report by the Secretariat

1. In 2006, the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) issued seven reports, three of which either were not of direct relevance to WHO,¹ or did not call for any specific action from WHO at this stage. The Secretariat's comments on another report, Oversight lacunae in the United Nations system (document JIU/REP/2006/2), together with JIU's main findings and recommendations, were transmitted to JIU and CEB. These comments were subsequently made available on request, in a matrix form, to members of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee at the Committee's fifth meeting.² The Committee's report was then submitted for consideration by the Executive Board at its 120th session in January 2007.³

2. The Secretariat's detailed comments on the remaining three reports, including the main findings and recommendations, have been transmitted to JIU and CEB; they are summarized in a matrix that is available upon request. The following reports are concerned: A second review of the implementation of headquarters agreements concluded by United Nations system organizations: provision of headquarters premises and other facilities by host countries (document JIU/REP/2006/4); towards a United Nations humanitarian assistance programme for disaster response and reduction: lessons learnt from the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster (document JIU/REP/2006/5); and Staff mobility in the United Nations (document JIU/REP/2006/7).

¹ Document JIU/REP/2006/1: Evaluation of results-based budgeting in peacekeeping operations.

Document JIU/REP/2006/3: Follow-up to the management review of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Document JIU/REP/2006/6: Results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process.

² See document EBPBAC5/7.

³ See document EB120/3.

3. In 2007, JIU has to date issued eight reports, five of which were not considered to be of direct relevance to WHO.¹ The Secretariat's comments on the three other reports, namely, voluntary contributions in United Nations system organizations: impact on programme delivery and resource mobilization strategies (document JIU/REP/2007/1); United Nations system staff medical coverage (document JIU/REP/2007/2); and Age structure of human resources in the organizations of the United Nations system (document JIU/REP/2007/4), together with JIU's main findings and recommendations, have been submitted to JIU and CEB and are also summarized in the matrix referred to in paragraph 2 above.

4. In addition, JIU issued in 2006 a note, Goodwill Ambassadors in the United Nations system (document JIU/NOTE/2006/1).

5. Regarding progress made in implementing the recommendations of JIU reports submitted to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee at its fifth meeting in January 2007,² the paragraphs that follow provide an overview of follow-up action taken on the report entitled "Further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)" (document JIU/REP/2005/8).

6. Eight of the 10 recommendations on NEPAD are directed to the United Nations General Assembly or the Secretary-General. With regard to the first of the two remaining recommendations (recommendation 5), the WHO Secretariat has accepted that the conveners of each technical cluster, in consultation with the Economic Commission for Africa and the African institutional partners concerned, should establish a clear and predictable schedule of meetings for clusters and sub-clusters, including a follow-up mechanism for implementing the resulting decisions.

7. Furthermore, WHO has been identified as the convener of the new sub-cluster on health within the cluster on human resource development, employment and HIV/AIDS. However, given the multisectoral nature of health, WHO needs also to be present in other clusters, such as those on: infrastructure development; governance, peace and security; science and technology; and environment, population and urbanization.

8. With regard to recommendation 7 of the report, the Secretariat has accepted the idea that the United Nations General Assembly and governing bodies of all relevant organizations of the United Nations system should substantially increase their support for the agreed joint programmes and projects of the technical clusters. However, in the Secretariat's view, these joint activities should remain closely aligned with WHO's regional office structure.

¹ Document JIU/REP/2007/3: Review of the working capital fund in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Document JIU/REP/2007/5: Review of management and administration at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Document JIU/REP/2007/6: Knowledge management in the United Nations system.

Document JIU/REP/2007/7: Review of management and administration at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Document JIU/REP/2007/9: Review of the National Competitive Recruitment Examination as a recruitment tool.

² Document EBPBAC5/8.

ACTION BY THE PROGRAMME, BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

9. The Committee is invited to take note of this report.

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