
Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

Report by the Secretariat

1. In 2009, the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) issued nine reports, five of which were not of direct relevance to WHO¹ or did not call for any specific action from WHO at this stage. Detailed comments by the Secretariat on the remaining four reports from 2009 have been transmitted to the JIU and the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination. These comments, together with JIU's main findings and recommendations, are summarized in a tracking sheet which is available upon request. Specifically, the comments concern the following reports: Towards more coherent United Nations system support to Africa (JIU/REP/2009/5); Offshoring in United Nations system organizations: offshore service centres (JIU/REP/2009/6); Selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2009/8); and The role of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinators: a benchmarking framework for coherence and integration within the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2009/9).

2. By September 2010, the JIU had issued three reports, all of which are of direct relevance to WHO. These are: Environmental profile of the United Nations system organizations: review of their in-house environmental management policies and practices (JIU/REP/2010/1); Review of travel arrangements within the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2010/2) and Ethics in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2010/3).

3. The JIU issued two Notes covering the period 2009 and 2010, which were referred to in the Secretariat's report on JIU matters.²

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN PREVIOUS REPORTS

4. Regarding progress made in implementing the recommendations of previous JIU reports considered by the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee at its eleventh meeting in

¹ Document JIU/REP/2009/1 Review of management and administration in the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO); document JIU/REP/2009/2 Second follow-up to the management review of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; document JIU/REP/2009/3 Effectiveness of the International Telecommunication Union regional presence; document JIU/REP/2009/4 Assessment of the global mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and document JIU/REP/2009/7 Review of management and administration in the World Food Programme (WFP).

² See EBPBAC11/6 Corporate sponsoring in the United Nations system: principles and guidelines (JIU/NOTE/2009/1), and Internships in the United Nations system (JIU/NOTE/2009/2).

January 2010 and with respect to the report on Review of information and communication technology (ICT) hosting services in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2008/5), there are six recommendations, of which three have led to specific implementation actions on the part of the Secretariat.

Recommendation 1

5. In order to implement Recommendation 1 of the JIU report (JIU/REP/2008/5), the executive heads of the United Nations system organizations were requested to work with the High Level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination towards defining a consistent method of recording information and communication technology expenditures and costs to facilitate a cost-benefit analysis of such services.

6. WHO is testing an internal information and communication technology service classification coding system to record expenditure for each service consistently across the Organization. In April 2009, the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications of WHO, through its Global Leadership information and communication technology team, started to identify and categorize existing services. The team developed an information and communication technology service portfolio, provided Organization-wide, in order to show the cost of services when using the Global Management System. Relevant classification codes for this portfolio were identified, assigned and established in the Global Management System, so that all tasks in the workplans of each WHO office can be linked to their appropriation codes.

7. The next priority is to update all workplans to include their classification codes across the WHO regions. This would be followed by the creation of separate Global Management System reports according to such classification codes (which supersede the present manual collection), and the consolidation of related cost information in the Global Management System.

Recommendation 4

8. In order to implement Recommendation 4, the executive heads of organizations participating in the United Nations International Computing Centre were requested to establish an ad hoc working group within each organization, with membership from both information and communication technology and business operations, or from the organization's own internal information and communication technology governance structure. The working group is expected to put forward concrete suggestions and devise an action plan to improve the cooperation with and use of information and communication technology hosting services provided by the United Nations International Computing Centre.

9. WHO has established an internal Business Owners' Committee for the Global Management System, with representation from various business units and the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, which regularly reviews the effectiveness of the United Nations International Computing Centre's services.

Recommendation 5

10. In Recommendation 5, the executive heads of those United Nations system organizations which had not yet done so, were requested to pursue the issue of joint procurement of information and communication technology hosting services, especially with those organizations in the same duty station or when similar requirements arose.

11. In order to implement Recommendation 5, WHO works as appropriate with other agencies to pursue joint procurement or take advantage of procurement being carried out by others to reduce duplication and to benefit from economies of scale: WHO, for example, engaged with UNDP and other agencies to include a volume discount across agencies in a contract to procure managed firewall services and with UNDP for the procurement of Unified Communication Systems and corresponding managed services.

12. Copies of the JIU report (JIU/REP/2008/5) and the detailed comments of WHO thereon, which are contained in the recommendations tracking sheet that accompanied the Secretariat's last report to the Committee on JIU reports, are available upon request.

ACTION BY THE PROGRAMME, BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

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