

## **Report of the Internal Auditor**

### **Fifth report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board to the Sixty-first World Health Assembly**

1. The eighth meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee was held in Geneva on 15 and 16 May 2008 under the chairmanship of Professor J. Pereira Miguel (Portugal).<sup>1</sup>
2. The Committee reviewed the Report of the Internal Auditor,<sup>2</sup> which contained the results of the internal audits, evaluations and investigations completed during 2007.
3. The Committee noted the improvement with respect to implementation of audit recommendations and, in particular, progress made in the African Region. The Committee acknowledged that the backlog of outstanding recommendations was being reduced; nevertheless, the need for sustained audit follow-up by management remained.
4. The Committee expressed its concern regarding the report of the assurance audit that had been made of the WHO Research Ethics Review Committee, particularly in two regional offices. In response, the Secretariat stated that an action plan had been initiated to ensure that all the recommendations were implemented. The action plan would be part of the overall review of the Organization's research strategy, which was to be reported to the Executive Board in January 2009.
5. The Committee noted the Director-General's intolerance for fraud and emphasized the need for continued vigilance.

**The Committee, on behalf of the Executive Board, recommended that the Health Assembly note the reports contained in document A61/25 and A61/25 Rev.1.**

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<sup>1</sup> For list of participants, see document A61/21.

<sup>2</sup> Document A61/25.