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Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Audit and Oversight Segment

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SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU): Reports of the JIU

Purpose of the document

This paper summarizes the JIU's annual report for 2015, its programme of work for 2016 and six reports published in 2014 and 2015 on the following UN system-wide issues: post-Rio +20 environmental governance; evaluation function; use of non-staff personnel and related contractual modalities; contract management and administration; mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work; and activities and resources devoted to addressing climate change.

The Governing Body is invited to provide guidance on the information contained in this document and on any of the recommendations addressed to the ILO in the six JIU reports, as well as on the status of follow-up to the recommendations presented to the Governing Body in the past three years (see the proposed point for discussion in paragraph 23).

Relevant strategic objective: Governance, support and management.

Policy implications: Subject to guidance from the Governing Body.

Legal implications: Subject to guidance from the Governing Body.

Financial implications: None.

Follow-up action required: Subject to guidance from the Governing Body.

Author unit: Strategic Programming and Management Department (PROGRAM).

Related documents: This document is submitted annually, in accordance with the procedure established in GB.294/PV, paragraph 210. Reference documents: GB.328/PFA/7/REF/1 and GB.328/PFA/7/REF/2.

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2015 and programme of work for 2016

1. The 2015 annual report ¹ of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) provides information on, among other things: JIU reports and management letters issued in 2015; independent system-wide evaluations for operational activities for development; and participating agencies' follow-up on recommendations. It also lists the reviews planned for 2016, including on five issues that concern the ILO as part of the United Nations (UN) system, namely: administrative services delivery; knowledge management; donor-led accountability and oversight reviews; support for Small Island Developing States (final findings); and travel policies.
2. Annex IV to the 2015 report shows that the ILO's share of the JIU costs for 2016–17 represents 2.2 per cent of the total contributions of all participating organizations. The ILO's share of the 2016–17 JIU budget amounts to some US\$286,000.

Selected JIU reports published in 2014 and 2015

3. In accordance with the established procedure, the Office submits to the Governing Body annually a summary of JIU reports containing recommendations addressed to UN system organizations, along with a summary of the comments of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and comments by the Office. A summary of six such JIU reports is being presented to the Governing Body at its current session, as set out in paragraphs 5–22 below. The full reports are available on the JIU website. ²
4. The ILO's follow-up status for each JIU recommendation is presented in a separate reference document, which is available on the Governing Body website. ³ In response to continued requests, the Office has also made available an additional reference document that provides an updated status of the follow-up on those JIU recommendations that were presented to the Governing Body in the previous three years. ⁴

Post-Rio +20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2014/4)

5. The report includes three recommendations for ILO action. One of them, concerning work to be undertaken in the framework of the UN Country Teams, has been accepted and is in progress. While the Office supports the other two recommendations, they are both addressed

¹ United Nations: *Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2015 and programme of work for 2016*, Official Records of the General Assembly, Supplement No. 34, General Assembly, 70th session, New York, 2016 (A/70/34).

² See <https://www.unjiu.org/en/reports-notes/Pages/reports.aspx>.

³ GB.328/PFA/7/REF/1, available (in English only) at: <http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB328/pfa/lang--en/index.htm>.

⁴ GB.328/PFA/7/REF/2, available (in English only) at: <http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB328/pfa/lang--en/index.htm>.

to the UN Secretary-General, as Chairperson of the CEB, and are therefore not relevant to the ILO.

6. While the CEB members found the report informative, they noted that some recommendations and statements were inconsistent with resolutions adopted by the UN Environment Assembly, which should be respected. They further noted that many parts of the report went beyond its stated scope of international environmental governance and addressed more broadly issues of sustainable development and climate change. They were concerned that conflating environmental sustainability with sustainable development, as they observed in various recommendations and findings of the report, potentially creates unclear mandates and duplication in the UN system.
7. Taking the CEB's comments into account, the Office will continue to take part in UN system-wide initiatives to mainstream environmental sustainability within the scope of the ILO's mandate.

Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2014/6)

8. Seven recommendations are designated for ILO action. Five of them have been accepted, and have been or are currently being implemented. Of the remaining two, the Office actively supports the development of a UN system-wide quality assurance system for the evaluation function, but the recommendation is addressed to the UN Secretary-General and is therefore not relevant to the ILO. Recommendation 4, concerning a review and revision of existing policy for the appointment of the head of the evaluation office in each UN system organization, has not been accepted, particularly with respect to the term limits to be established for a single non-renewable term of office with no possibility for the incumbent to re-enter the organization.
9. CEB members found the recommendations in the report to be clear and results-oriented in general, and supported many of them. As for recommendation 4, they noted wide variation in practice with regard to term limits and the possibility of re-entry into the organization, as indicated in the report. However, they did not find any clear evidence in the report to support the recommended approach.
10. The Office appreciates the report's excellent overview of the status of the evaluation functions in the UN system. It also joins the CEB members in supporting most of the recommendations and will pursue their implementation, where relevant.

Use of non-staff personnel and related contractual modalities in the United Nations system organizations – Country case studies: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and India (JIU/REP/2014/8)

11. Four recommendations are designated for ILO action, two of which have been accepted and implemented. The other two, which concern regular reviews of non-staff personnel information/data by the Governing Body (recommendation 2), and periodic analytical reporting for both senior management and the Governing Body on the use of non-staff personnel (recommendation 5), have not been accepted.
12. The CEB members welcomed the report for providing critical insights into the use of consultants and the possible associated risks, as well as for highlighting practices worth

considering. With respect to recommendations 2 and 5, they pointed out that the global architecture of the contractual framework was generally under the purview of legislative bodies in the UN system organizations, whereas the implementation and monitoring of the use of contractual modalities remained the responsibility of the executive heads.

13. The Office joins the CEB members in welcoming the report and concurs with their comments.

Contract management and administration in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2014/9)

14. The report includes 11 (out of 12) recommendations for ILO action. Nine of them have been accepted and have been implemented or are currently in progress. Two recommendations have not been accepted: those concerning putting in place a system whereby post-award contract managers receive written notification about their accountability and responsibilities and possess the required qualifications (recommendation 3), and conducting a study to analyse the causes of modifications in contracts and to identify systemic deficiencies contributing to cost increases and delays (recommendation 9).
15. The CEB members supported most of the findings and recommendations in the report, but noted the need for further consideration from a cost–benefit perspective with respect to recommendations 1, 3, 4 and 5, among others. Many members do not consider it necessary to conduct the study proposed in recommendation 9, especially when there has been no evidence of systemic deficiencies and considering that modifications to contracts are normally subject to close scrutiny, including by contracts committees and internal and external audit.
16. The Office joins the CEB members' call for cost–benefit analyses and will continue its efforts to implement the relevant recommendations within the available resources, including through the ongoing business process review.

Evaluation of mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by the United Nations system organizations – Summary report (JIU/REP/2015/1)

17. The report includes seven recommendations for action, of which four are addressed to the UN Secretary-General, including in his capacity as Chairperson of the CEB. One recommendation is addressed to the UN Economic and Social Council, one recommendation is addressed to the ILO, and one recommendation is addressed to the selected UN system organizations. The recommendation for ILO action (No. 5) concerns the implementation of more proactive awareness-raising and training activities among the staff of UN system organizations in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the ILO and other training units in the UN system in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Office has accepted this recommendation and has begun implementation.
18. The CEB members welcomed the report, noting that decent work and full employment would continue to be a global and national priority as part of the SDGs. Several member organizations strongly advocated for the inclusion and mainstreaming of refugees and asylum seekers, without excluding other migrants, in the country-level UN programming frameworks and overall decent work efforts of the UN system, in view of their vulnerability to human trafficking and/or forced labour. They observed a gap in this respect in the policies,

programmes and advocacy efforts of those organizations assessed as having reached the highest level of mainstreaming of decent work in the evaluation report.

19. The Office, together with the International Training Centre of the ILO, will further its efforts to enhance knowledge and capacity of the UN system organizations on decent work in the context of the SDGs, under the continued guidance of the Governing Body, including for the 2018–21 Strategic Plan and the Programme and Budget proposals for the 2018–19 biennium.

Review of activities and resources devoted to address climate change in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2015/5)

20. Five recommendations are designated for action by the ILO, among other organizations. All of the recommendations have been accepted and are being implemented.
21. The CEB members generally welcomed the report for providing a valuable assessment of activities on climate change within the UN system. However, several made observations on the comparability of financial data presented in the report, and there was a suggestion to add a reference to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the impacts of climate change on human rights and advocating the integration of human rights considerations in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
22. The Office joins the CEB members in welcoming the report, which includes references to the ILO in this area of work, such as the green initiative on which the Governing Body had provided guidance.

Proposed point for discussion

23. The Governing Body is invited to provide guidance on this document and on any of the recommendations addressed to the ILO in the corresponding JIU reports, as summarized above and as set out in GB.328/PFA/7/REF/1 and GB.328/PFA/7/REF/2.