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**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 15–17 May 2002

REPORTS BY THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Agenda item 8

For consideration

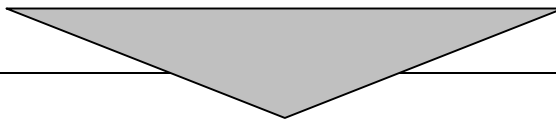
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Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.2/2002/8-B
16 April 2002
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORTS BY THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF WFP

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Note to the Executive Board



This document is submitted for consideration to the Executive Board.

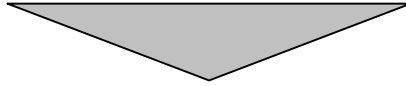
The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Director, Oversight Services Division Mr A. Wilkinson tel.: 066513-2029
(OEDO) and Inspector-General:

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



Draft Decision



The Executive Board considers the recommendations of the only Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report in 2001 of relevance to the work of WFP, “Enhancing Governance Oversight Role: Structure, Working Methods and Practices in Handling Oversight Reports” (JIU/REP/2001/4). The Board notes that WFP accepts and is implementing recommendations 1 and 4 and that recommendations 2 and 3 are largely irrelevant to WFP.



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1. The JIU was established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2150 (XXI) in 1966. The unit is composed of 11 inspectors with broad powers of investigation in matters concerning the efficiency of services and the proper use of funds by the United Nations system. The JIU determines whether activities undertaken by participating organizations are carried out in the most economical manner and ensures that optimum use is made of resources.
 2. The JIU's participating organizations are the United Nations, its affiliated bodies and 14 specialized agencies that accept the JIU statute. WFP is a participating organization through its constitutional ties to the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Relevant JIU reports are therefore addressed to the Executive Director for transmission to the WFP Executive Board.
 3. The Executive Board, by its decision 1998/EB.A/7, recommended that the Bureau review future JIU reports and present its observations for the Board's consideration.
 4. The JIU issued six reports in 2001, listed in Annex I. Copies of five of them are available to Board members on request. The last one will be made available as soon as it is received.
 5. One of those 2001 reports is of relevance to WFP: "Enhancing Governance Oversight Role: Structure, Working Methods and Practices on Handling Oversight Reports" (JIU/REP/2001/4).
 6. Annex II, attached, contains the report's recommendations and the Secretariat's responses, including follow-up action taken.



ANNEX I

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT**Reports Issued in 2001**

- Management of Buildings: Practices of Selected United Nations System Organizations Relevant to the Renovation of the United Nations Headquarters (JIU/REP/2001/1)
<http://www.unsystem.org/jiu/Reports.html>
- United Nations System Support for Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (JIU/REP/2001/2)
<http://www.unsystem.org/jiu/Reports.html>
- Review of Management and Administration in the International Telecommunications Union (JIU/REP/2001/3)
<http://www.unsystem.org/jiu/Reports.html>
- Enhancing Governance Oversight Role: Structure, Working Methods and Practices on Handling Oversight Reports (JIU/REP/2001/4)
<http://www.unsystem.org/jiu/Reports.html>
- Review of Management and Administration in the World Health Organization (WHO) (JIU/REP/2001/5)
<http://www.unsystem.org/jiu/Reports.html>
- Reforming the Field Service Category of Personnel in United Nations Peace Operations (JIU/REP/2001/6)
(WFP will receive this in due course)



REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF RELEVANCE TO WFP–2001

Title and Purpose	Recommendations	WFP response, including follow-up
<p>JIU/REP/2001/4</p> <p>Enhancing Governance Oversight Role: Structure, Working Methods and Practices on Handling Oversight Reports</p> <p>Objective: To contribute to the effectiveness and quality of the oversight role exercised primarily by the “executive” legislative organs (such as the Executive Board or Council) and their subsidiaries responsible for oversight issues by focussing on their governance structure, working methods and practices and on the legislative organs’ procedures for handling reports prepared by oversight mechanisms.</p>	<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>Governance structure, working methods and practices of legislative organs covering oversight</p> <p><u>The legislative organs</u> may wish to adopt, as a matter of principle, the following <i>modus operandi</i> for enhancing the effectiveness of their oversight functions (paras 19-24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Following the intent of the United Nations General Assembly as expressed in resolution 50/233 and decision 55/461, list thematic oversight reports, as far as feasible and practical, under the appropriate substantive agenda items, together with any other relevant reports listed under the same agenda items; b) When more than one report (including an oversight report) is listed under a specific agenda item, review all the relevant parts of the reports listed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner; c) Link fully the review made in (b) above to setting policy and/or management directives on the issue (under the agenda item) in question, with specific legislative actions on the strategic/policy matters whenever required; d) In addition, make organizational arrangements to ensure that consideration of programme matters is linked systematically to the consideration of administrative/budgetary/financial matters; e) Furthermore, consider/verify, either separately or as a part of the review exercise in (b) above, secretariat compliance with approved oversight recommendations while ensuring, at the same time, reinforcement of a system of secretariat accountability and responsibility. 	<p>Accepted and in the process of being implemented in WFP.</p> <p>In 1999 the Executive Board of WFP established a working group on governance that carefully examined the role of the governing body. The working group identified, and the Executive Board approved, measures that reaffirmed its oversight function, leading to enhanced accountability and transparency of the Programme Secretariat. Some of the recommendations and conclusions of the JIU report overlap with those made by the Working Group on Governance.</p> <p>Accepted and in place.</p> <p>In documents presented for the consideration of the Board, programme matters are linked systematically with administration, budgetary and financial matters as appropriate. At the individual project level, every proposal includes a budget. At the corporate level, the Strategic Financial Plan (and in future the Management Plan) directly links these specific aspects of WFP’s work.</p>



REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF RELEVANCE TO WFP–2001

Title and Purpose	Recommendations	WFP response, including follow-up
	<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>In applying the <i>modus operandi</i> in Recommendation 1 above, <u>the legislative organs</u>, depending on the existing arrangements, may wish to adopt measures to rationalize or strengthen governance structures as well as their working methods along the lines indicated in paras 25–31 and 46–48:</p> <p>a) For the organizations with more than one committee (covering oversight at least as a part of the terms of reference, and subsidiary to the “executive” legislative organ) (FAO, ITU, UNESCO and WHO):</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i) consolidate (or convert) the existing committees basically into two, i.e. programme and administrative/budget/finance committees (option 1); or</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii) establish a single standing committee as subsidiary to the “executive” legislative organ by consolidating the existing committees (option 2).</p> <p>b) For the organizations with a single committee (ILO, UNIDO, UPU, WIPO, WMO and IAEA), maintain the single committee, but fully embody the <i>modus operandi</i> in Recommendation 1 in respect of its organization and working methods, and for that purpose, broaden, when necessary, its terms of reference and enhance its authority regarding all oversight matters excluding purely technical areas.</p>	<p>Not accepted. Alternative advisory committee system in place.</p> <p>The Executive Board of WFP does not have a committee that looks after administrative, budgetary and financial questions. The General Regulations of the Programme require that “in all matters related to the financial administration of WFP, the Board shall draw on the advice of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Finance Committee of FAO”. Those bodies’ reports on WFP matters are presented to the Board.</p>



REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF RELEVANCE TO WFP–2001

Title and Purpose	Recommendations	WFP response, including follow-up
	<p>c) For the organizations with no committee (United Nations Funds and Programmes, and IMO), what is required is to embody the same <i>modus operandi</i> in the functioning of the “executive” legislative organ itself, with the necessary structural (re-) arrangement (including the possible creation of a sessional committee).</p> <p>d) Furthermore, where it is not the case, the “executive” legislative organs, depending upon the size, resources and needs of their respective organizations, could be assisted by a small expert advisory body on administrative/financial and related managerial questions reporting to the administrative/budget/finance committee/the single committee or direct to the “executive” legislative organ (IMO).</p> <p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>In the interest of efficiency, effectiveness and economy in governance oversight, and drawing on practices in some of the United Nations organizations, <u>the legislative organs</u> where applicable may also wish to review the following questions (paras. 32–44):</p> <p>a) numerical composition of the “executive” legislative organs and/or their subsidiary committees, including an option of maintaining a limited/elected core membership of the committees where such is the practice, while allowing wider participation as observers by interested members of the “executive” legislative organs;</p>	<p>Not relevant for WFP.</p> <p>The recommendation on the numerical composition of the legislative organs touches on an area that is beyond the scope of WFP Executive Board functions. ECOSOC and the General Assembly, and the FAO Council and Conference, have authority in that respect.</p>



REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF RELEVANCE TO WFP–2001		
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Title and Purpose	Recommendations	WFP response, including follow-up
	<p>b) expertise and experience of the members of the “executive” legislative organs and/or their committees covering oversight, which should be represented or accompanied, to the extent possible by individuals having managerial expertise in administrative and financial matters in addition to technical knowledge of the work of the organizations concerned;</p> <p>c) frequency and duration of the sessions, including <i>inter alia</i> the possibility of less frequent and shorter sessions, with more streamlined agendas and focused considerations on issues requiring legislative actions; as well as</p> <p>d) travel and subsistence allowance paid to the delegates, as far as such practices are in existence, including the possibility of abolishing such practices (entirely, or partially; e.g., maintain travel allowance only) as a matter of principle with due regard, however, to the capacity of countries, in particular the least developed countries to finance their representation.</p>	<p>Not an Executive Board prerogative. This refers to the expertise and experience of members of the legislative organs. It is the prerogative of member states to designate their representative to those organs. Neither the Executive Board as a body nor the Secretariat can infringe that prerogative.</p> <p>Accepted and being implemented. The Working Group on Governance of WFP reached the same conclusion concerning the frequency and duration of sessions. The Board is reviewing its agendas and work methods with a view to reducing session duration from the current 14 days (in four sessions) to 11 days (in three sessions).</p> <p>Not applicable to WFP.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p><u>Procedures of legislative organs for handling reports prepared by oversight mechanisms</u></p> <p>As a supplement to the measures being/to be taken to improve handling reports prepared by oversight mechanisms, <u>the Executive Heads</u>, following the practice mandated by the General Assembly for the United Nations in its Resolution 52/220 II (paragraph 8) should include in the individual sections of programme (and) budget a summary of the relevant recommendations and related follow-up actions taken (paras. 68–70).</p>	<p>Accepted and being presented to the WFP Executive Board for approval. The WFP Secretariat and the JIU have reached agreement on the handling of and follow-up to oversight reports and a proposal is being presented to the Board for approval at the second regular session in May 2002.</p>

