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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 15–17 May 2002**

## REPORTS BY THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

### Agenda item 8

*For approval*

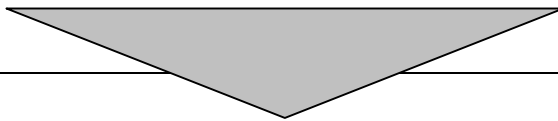
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**WFP/EB.2/2002/8-A**  
16 April 2002  
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## REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FOLLOW-UP SYSTEM FOR JOINT INSPECTION UNIT REPORTS

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# Note to the Executive Board



**This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.**

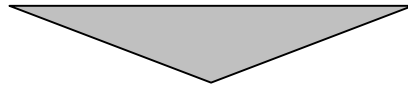
The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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 approves the scheme outlined in WFP/EB.2/2002/8-A as the system of follow-up on reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). The scheme was prepared by WFP in consultation with the JIU, following the model in the 1997 JIU Annual Report (A/52/34), and endorses by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 54/16 of 29 October 1999. The Board wishes the WFP Secretariat to keep it informed of developments in the system's application.



1. At its Second Regular Session in May 2000, the Board “encouraged the Secretariat and the JIU to continue discussions with a view to developing a system of follow-up to the JIU recommendations. The Board looked forward to reviewing the matter in due course” (WFP/EB.2/2000/8).
2. United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/233 of 7 June 1996 established the principle that JIU’s impact on the cost-effectiveness of United Nations activities is the shared responsibility of Member States, JIU and secretariats of participating organizations.
3. Reflecting this concept of shared responsibility for oversight, JIU prepared the document *Towards a more effective system of follow-up on reports of the Joint Inspection Unit*, which was included as Annex I of the JIU 1997 Annual Report (A/52/34). This proposed follow-up system was submitted for consideration and action by the legislative organs of participating organizations. It was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 54/16 of 29 October 1999.
4. The endorsed follow-up system acknowledges that the value of a JIU report depends on effective follow-up. This requires (a) that reports be given serious consideration by the legislative organs of participating organizations and (b) that there be prompt implementation of approved recommendations, with full reporting on the measures and analysis of impacts.
5. Following WFP’s agreement in principle with the JIU proposal in October 2001, the Secretariat has prepared the follow-up scheme outlined in paragraphs 6 to 13 below in consultation with the JIU. This initial approach is subject to review and adjustment as warranted by experience and in consultation with the JIU.
6. The JIU statute provisions, in particular Chapter IV, and the follow-up system contained in Annex I of the 1997 JIU Annual Report (A/52/34), constitute the basic framework for handling JIU reports.
7. Upon receipt of a JIU report draft, the Executive Director will indicate in his comments whether the report is relevant to WFP, or the reasons why it is not relevant. Basic criteria to determine relevance are whether the report and its recommendations satisfy any one of the following factors:
  - a) the subject fits the mandate and purposes of WFP;
  - b) it has a bearing on the efficiency of services and the proper use of funds;
  - c) it is aimed at improving management and methods and at achieving greater coordination among organizations;
  - d) it assists the Executive Board in exercising a responsibility for external evaluation of programmes and activities; and
  - e) it assesses methods of internal evaluation and advises WFP.
8. JIU will give full consideration to the comments called for in paragraph 7 in deciding whether or not to submit a final version of the report to the Executive Director for Board consideration, in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4(a) of the JIU statute.
9. JIU reports received under this procedure will be made available by the Secretariat to Board members in the official languages.



10. As called for by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 50/233, the WFP Secretariat will ensure that directly relevant JIU reports are listed under the appropriate agenda item of the Executive Board work programme.
11. The JIU reports submitted annually by the Secretariat to the Board will comprise the following items:
  - a) WFP comments on the JIU reports of the previous year relevant to the work of WFP, in matrix form;
  - b) a list of all JIU reports issued in that year; and
  - c) the status of WFP's implementation of previously approved or accepted recommendations, in matrix form.
12. The document will generally maintain the format of WFP/EB.2/2001/8, which the Secretariat presented to the Executive Board at its Second Regular Session of May 2001. To be more action-oriented, however, the document will in future contain a clearer indication of (a) which of the recommendations addressed to the Executive Director are acceptable and (b) which of the recommendations require legislative action in terms of decisions by the Board. It is understood that Board consideration will focus mainly on recommendations addressed to it for action. The Board may, however, review recommendations addressed to the Executive Director.
13. Because the Unit is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly, in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 2 of the JIU statute, the JIU representative will be invited as an observer to comment on JIU documents presented to the Board at its second session each year.
14. The Board is invited to approve the scheme outlined above as the follow-up system to JIU reports prepared by WFP in consultation with the JIU.

