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Administrative and managerial matters

For consideration

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (<https://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP

Draft decision*

The Board takes note of the information and recommendations in the document entitled Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP (WFP/EB.1/2022/9-B/Rev.1) and endorses the responses to the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations to the legislative bodies included in the annexes to the document.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

Focal points:

Mr J. Howitt
Director and Chief Risk Officer
Enterprise Risk Management Division
tel.: 066513-2786

Ms H. Spanos
Chief
Risk Management Branch
tel.: 066513-2603

The Joint Inspection Unit

1. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 2150 (XXI) in 1966, is an independent external oversight body of the United Nations system mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations system-wide. The JIU is composed of 11 inspectors whose aim is to help improve management and methods, promote greater coordination among United Nations organizations and determine whether activities undertaken by participating organizations are carried out in the most economical manner.
2. The JIU's participating organizations are the United Nations and its affiliated bodies and specialized agencies. WFP is a participating organization through its constitutional ties to the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Relevant JIU reports are addressed to the Executive Director for transmission to the WFP Executive Board.

JIU reports for WFP action

3. In the 2021 reporting period,¹ the JIU issued five reports that require WFP action. These reports may be found on the JIU website in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish and via the hyperlinks in annex III.
4. The following JIU reports include new recommendations for WFP action:
 - i) Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2021/3);
 - ii) Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action (JIU/REP/2021/2);
 - iii) Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2020/8); and
 - iv) Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness (JIU/REP/2020/7).
5. Recommendations from a fifth report, on multilingualism in the United Nations system, are presented in a separate document discussed by the Board at its 2021 annual session.²
6. Annex I outlines 21 new recommendations from JIU reports (excluding the multilingualism in the United Nations system review) with recommendations for WFP action issued since the last report to the Board, and WFP's responses and follow-up actions.³ These include five recommendations for action by the legislative body received in the 2021 reporting cycle and responses suggested by the secretariat. The alternates of the Executive Board Bureau reviewed these suggested responses, which were subsequently endorsed by the Bureau at its 13 January 2022 meeting.
7. Annex II updates the status of eight recommendations from reports previously submitted to the Board.
8. Annex III provides links to JIU reports discussed in this document and the associated comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
9. Follow-up has resulted in the closure of 28 recommendations, excluding those from the multilingualism in the United Nations system review closed at the 2021 annual session of the Board (see table 1).

¹ Reports received by 31 October 2021.

² "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit: Multilingualism in the United Nations system" (WFP/EB.A/2021/10-C).

³ "Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP" (WFP/EB.1/2021/9-A/Rev.1).

TABLE 1: STATUS OF JIU RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE 2022 FIRST REGULAR SESSION					
JIU programme of work year	Report subject	Outstanding at 2021 first regular session	New	Closed	Outstanding at 2022 first regular session
2017	Air travel policies	1	0	1	0
	Conflict of interest mechanisms	1	0	1	0
2018	Whistleblower policies and practices	1	0	1	0
	Strengthening policy research uptake	1	0	1	0
2019	Audit and oversight committees	2	0	2	0
	Multilingualism	0	6	6*	0
2020	State of the investigation function	1	0	1	0
	Common premises	1	0	1	0
	Blockchain applications	0	6	6	0
	Environmental sustainability	0	10	9	1
	Support for landlocked developing countries	0	3	3	0
	Cybersecurity	0	2	2	0
Total		8	27	34	1

*Closed at the Board's 2021 annual session (WFP/EB.A/2021/10-C).

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Rec. no.	Report	Recommendation	Acceptance*	Implementation**	Status***	Remarks
2021/3 Rec 1	Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should prepare, as a matter of priority and no later than 2022, a comprehensive report on their cybersecurity framework and present it to their respective legislative and governing bodies at the earliest opportunity, covering the elements contributing to improved cyberresilience examined in the present report.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal point: Technology Division (TEC)</p> <p>Existing governance structures provide for regular reporting on cybersecurity and cyber-resilience as part of ensuring adequate oversight and advice. WFP discusses cybersecurity matters regularly with the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (formerly the Audit Committee) which provides independent, expert advice to the Executive Board and the Executive Director.</p> <p>With regard to internal governance, the Digital Business and Technology Committee, WFP's governance board for enterprise information technology (IT), ensures that the development and application of data and digital technology are aligned with WFP's digital transformation ambitions and strategic objectives. The committee receives expert advice in carrying out its role from the IT Advisory Board, a group of experienced chief information officers and chief digital officers from the private sector, academia and government institutions that meets annually to review technology trends and opportunities for WFP and to exchange management knowledge.</p>

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Rec. no.	Report	Recommendation	Acceptance*	Implementation**	Status***	Remarks
2021/3 Rec 2	Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations	The legislative and governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should consider the reports on the elements contributing to improved cyberresilience prepared by the executive heads and provide strategic guidance on further improvements to be implemented in their respective organizations, as necessary.	Partially accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: TEC The Board welcomes this recommendation and notes that existing governance structures provide for regular reporting on cybersecurity and cyber-resilience as part of ensuring adequate oversight and advice. See also response to recommendation 1.
2021/2 Rec 1	Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action	The executive heads of United Nations system organizations should designate, if they have not already done so, by the end of 2022, an organizational focal point on landlocked developing countries with clear terms of reference, developed with guidance from UN-OHRLLS, that define the focal point's role and responsibilities in supporting implementation of the programme of action for landlocked developing countries.	Partially accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal points: Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO), United Nations System and Multilateral Engagement Division (NYC) The WFP strategic plan for 2017–2021 and policy on country strategic plans (CSPs) define WFP's strategic direction and approach to country-level strategic and programmatic engagement, including in landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). WFP's priorities and objectives, including support for LLDCs, are identified based on extensive analysis and consultations involving government stakeholders, civil society, the private sector, donors and international organizations, including United Nations system partners, aimed at ensuring alignment of the country-level results chain with national priorities that support the attainment of WFP objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Rec. no.	Report	Recommendation	Acceptance*	Implementation**	Status***	Remarks
						WFP management does not plan to appoint a single organizational focal point but will instead continue to support LLDCs through the implementation of its CSPs under the leadership of the respective country directors and in partnership with United Nations country teams and stakeholders.
2021/2 Rec 3	Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action	The executive heads of United Nations system organizations should develop, by the end of 2022, a clear results framework for support for landlocked developing countries, including linkages among the outcomes to be achieved, the main outputs strategy and core activities.	Partially accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal points: PRO, NYC</p> <p>WFP welcomes this recommendation and notes that its corporate results framework for 2022–2025, to be approved by the Board at its 2022 first regular session, will guide the planning, implementation and monitoring of the WFP strategic plan for 2022–2025. See also response to recommendation 1.</p> <p>WFP agrees with the forthcoming CEB inter-agency response to this recommendation, which notes that it would benefit the JIU participating organizations to reflect the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries in common country analyses and the resulting United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks before incorporating LLDC priorities into the main output strategies and activities of single agencies. WFP will support any inter-agency initiatives resulting from this recommendation. See also response to recommendation 7.</p>

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Rec. no.	Report	Recommendation	Acceptance*	Implementation**	Status***	Remarks
2021/2 Rec 7	Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action	The legislative organs and governing bodies of United Nations system organizations should issue directives, if they have not already done so, by the end of 2022, for their organizations to mainstream the priorities of the programme of action for landlocked developing countries that are pertinent to their mandated work and request that their organizations report periodically on its implementation.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal points: PRO, NYC, Corporate Planning and Performance Division</p> <p>WFP notes that the Executive Board has defined WFP's strategic direction and approach through its approval of the WFP strategic plan for 2022–2025, the policy on country strategic plans and the CSPs of LLDCs, and that WFP will report on the achievement of its strategic objectives, including with regard to LLDCs, through the forthcoming corporate results framework for 2022–2025.</p>
2020/8 Rec 1	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should, by the end of 2022, develop an organization-wide policy for environmental sustainability in the areas of internal management functions.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal point: Management Services Division (MSD)</p> <p>The environmental policy approved by the Executive Board at its 2017 first regular session is aimed at integrating environmental sustainability into the organization's work on addressing hunger through programmatic and internal management functions. In addition, Executive Director's 2021 circular on the establishment of the WFP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework, (OED2021/018) includes a set of principles, standards and tools for increasing the environmental and social sustainability of WFP's operations and activities.</p>

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2020/8 Rec 2	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The legislative organs and governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should, by the end of 2022, direct the executive heads to embed environmental sustainability considerations into the management of their organizations and request them to include in the annual report on the work of the organization the results of efforts to mainstream environmental sustainability in the internal management functions of the organization.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: MSD WFP recognizes the importance of mainstreaming environmental sustainability considerations into its internal management functions in order to reduce its environmental footprint and notes that environmental sustainability considerations have been incorporated into WFP's annual performance report since 2010, with improvements introduced since the adoption of the environmental policy in 2017. WFP is committed to continuously improve environmental sustainability in line with its 2017 environmental policy and the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System 2020–2030 . See also recommendations 3, 4 and 5.
2020/8 Rec 3	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, devote adequate resources in specific budget plans, including by better utilizing existing available resources, to mainstreaming environmental sustainability in their respective organizations, and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: MSD Since 2008, WFP has allocated resources to fund personnel who support its work on environmental sustainability, including in core positions created at headquarters since 2015. In addition, a budget for relevant regional bureaux positions was allocated in the WFP management plan for 2022–2024 with a view to further mainstreaming and strengthening the role of regional bureaux in advising country offices and field operations on environmental sustainability. WFP will continue to explore potential additional resources as the scale-up of these initiatives continues.

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						WFP provides progress updates on environmental mainstreaming in its annual performance report. In addition, a key performance indicator, the “percentage of WFP countries implementing environmental management systems”, is included in the corporate results framework and reported annually in the WFP management plan (see table VIII.2 of the WFP management plan for 2022–2024).
2020/8 Rec 4	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should, by the end of 2022, task procurement offices with incorporating specific provisions for integrating environmental sustainability considerations into procurement policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines, including through the relevant inter-agency mechanisms, as necessary.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: Supply Chain Operations Division WFP’s goods and services and food procurement manuals include provisions that integrate environmental considerations, including mandatory sustainability criteria for regular headquarters procurement activities. In addition, WFP’s guideline on sustainable procurement integrates sustainable procurement principles and practices into purchasing decisions. WFP recognizes the value of shared frameworks developed through inter-agency mechanisms but notes that the guidelines need to be sufficiently flexible to allow offices in developing countries to respond appropriately to operational conditions and to provide an agile response in emergency situations. WFP will support any inter-agency initiatives resulting from this recommendation.

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2020/8 Rec 5	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, ensure that all recruitment and selection processes, as well as performance appraisal systems, incorporate and give adequate weight to environmental sustainability understanding and behaviours, and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023.	Partially accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal point: Human Resources Division</p> <p>WFP agrees with the CEB inter-agency response to this recommendation, which recognizes the value of incorporating environmental sustainability into the United Nations system's common culture, but considers that adding certain values, competencies and skills to testing procedures in recruitment and performance evaluation processes, especially those not directly related to the technical requirements of the roles concerned, may not be feasible in all cases or in the absence of an agreed framework for assessment.</p> <p>Alternative approaches such as the training of personnel following their onboarding may be more efficient and effective. For example, WFP strives to increase staff awareness of environmental sustainability by integrating the principles of the WFP environmental policy into its learning platform (WeLearn), including through a dedicated environmental and sustainability channel for all employees with a WFP-developed e-learning module on environmental sustainability among the courses.</p>

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2020/8 Rec 6	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, with the support of the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country team mechanisms, strengthen the coordination between the headquarters and field agencies, as well as among field agencies, in pursuing measures to reduce the environmental impact of field presences, and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: MSD WFP supports the move towards stronger coordination among United Nations organizations to minimize the environmental footprint of operations, especially in field offices. WFP considers it important to pursue this work by strengthening environmental mainstreaming in United Nations development system reform processes, through the business operations strategies in several countries. WFP reports on the status of implementation of its environmental management system to the Board and externally through the United Nations Greening the Blue platform.
2020/8 Rec 7	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, make all conferences, events and meetings organized by their respective organizations “paper smart”, while providing printed material only upon official request and with adequate cost recovery measures following a differential pricing system in respect of different customer groups – such as official delegates, research institutions, other conference	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: Executive Board Secretariat (EBS) WFP has moved towards paperless meetings through, for example, its “greening the Executive Board” initiative aimed at reducing the environmental impact and costs of meetings, including by posting all documents electronically on WFP’s Executive Board website and printing documentation only for interpreters. This practice was adopted by the Board secretariat at the 2016 first regular session of the Executive Board, when the use of single-use plastics was also phased out from high-level meetings in order to address environmental concerns.

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		participants and students – and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023.				In addition, awareness raising videos on WFP's commitment to environmental sustainability were produced for the membership. WFP pioneered completely virtual, multilingual meetings during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which resulted in significantly reduced travel and use of consumables. WFP is examining opportunities for mainstreaming positive aspects of virtual meetings into a "new normal", including through the identification of environmental benefits and lessons learned.
2020/8 Rec 8	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should, by the end of 2022, task the relevant offices responsible for organizing conferences, meetings and events with developing a policy for incorporating provisions relating to environmental sustainability considerations into policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines, including through the relevant inter-agency mechanisms, as necessary.	Accepted	In progress	Open	Focal points: EBS, MSD WFP's "greening the Executive Board" initiative has been cited by the JIU as a good practice. WFP notes that environmental sustainability norms and guidance have been incorporated into its procedures for organizing events and conferences, and has achieved significant environmental benefits and financial savings by phasing out the use of printed documents and single-use conventional plastics at Board meetings. WFP is committed to supporting wider uptake of green meeting practices as part of its corporate commitment to implementing the environmental management system, including by issuing guidance on remote meeting practices that reduce the environmental impacts of travel. WFP will continue to contribute to inter-agency initiatives resulting from this recommendation.

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						WFP has prepared a guidance document for organizing small and large gatherings for review by relevant headquarters units and expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2022. The guidance addresses the events indicator requirement in the United Nations Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030, which calls for all United Nations events with over 300 participants to be sustainable and climate-neutral.
2020/8 Rec 9	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system should ensure that, by the end of 2022, information and communications technology services' actions and projects comply with environmental sustainability considerations, including ensuring that greenhouse gas emissions are at a level compatible with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris agreement.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal point: TEC</p> <p>WFP welcomes the recommendation and supports the development and adoption of environment-friendly technologies.</p> <p>WFP is promoting the adoption of IT devices that have a beneficial impact on the environment, and WFP's information and communications technology function is committed to supporting ongoing strategic planning and initiatives aimed at reducing WFP's greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with targets based on the Paris Agreement and detailed in the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System 2020–2030.</p> <p>In addition, TEC is driving numerous automation, digitalization and simplification initiatives across WFP functions, including with regard to responsible life-cycle management of information and communications technology assets.</p> <p>TEC regularly updates policies, procedures and guidelines related to mainstreaming the reduction</p>

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						of WFP's environmental footprint resulting from IT-related emissions.
2020/8 Rec 10	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, make all official documentation, publications, brochures, and communication and advocacy materials available online, including through online conferencing applications or other information technology means, and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: Communications, Advocacy and Marketing Division WFP's official documentation, publications and other communication materials have been made available on the WFP website.
2020/7 Rec 1	Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should ensure that, when applicable, the use of blockchain applications will be integrated, together with other digital technologies, into the innovation strategies and policies adopted by their respective organizations.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal points: TEC, Innovation and Knowledge Management Division (INK) WFP welcomes the recommendation and notes that all innovations of proven value, including blockchain, are meant to be streamlined across the organization. WFP has structured its innovation and technology strategies in line with, and in ways that serve, the core functions of the organization. WFP has developed policies for cybersecurity, privacy and system integrity and has established a digital transformation service to ensure that digital technologies, including blockchain, are fully considered and aligned with corporate priorities.

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2020/7 Rec 2	Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should make sure that the examination of possible blockchain use cases will be based on assessments of project risks, including with respect to relevant organizational policies and regulations on privileges and immunities, data protection, confidentiality, cybersecurity, system integrity, and reputation.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal points: TEC, INK</p> <p>WFP agrees with the CEB inter-agency response to this recommendation, which welcomes the recommendation and notes that risk assessment is essential for large-scale adoption of new technology and that a balance needs to be struck between driving innovation and taking risks during the implementation of a risk assessment through the creation of an enabling environment that allows organizations to experiment with new innovative solutions by testing and piloting them on a small scale.</p> <p>The following are two examples of risk assessment practices that WFP has employed when adapting new technology.</p> <p>Before being admitted into the WFP Innovation Accelerator programme, new technology projects undergo a due diligence review carried out by, <i>inter alia</i>, the sourcing team and the innovation advisory group, which is comprised of senior WFP leaders. The review is followed by a week-long innovation exercise that focuses on innovation best practices, including “lean start-up” methodology and human-centred design, and enables WFP to better assess the project, identify potential risks in implementation, and ensure that the project adheres to WFP policies and procedures. Once a pilot has proved successful, further risk assessments are conducted by INK and TEC with</p>

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						<p>other relevant divisions during the project's scale-up phase.</p> <p>After the successful development and implementation of a proof of concept in Pakistan in 2017, a pilot in Jordan in 2018 and a project scale-up in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh in 2020 and 2021, WFP's Building Blocks project became the world's largest blockchain technology-based humanitarian assistance project, adhering to internal and external governance processes throughout its evolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2017, a cross-functional Building Blocks steering committee, comprised of the directors of the Cash-Based Transfers Division, the Corporate Finance Division and INK, the Country Director of Jordan, the Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and Northern Africa, and the Deputy Director of TEC, was formed to ensure that all risks are assessed and addressed appropriately during each project phase, that the project's progress is in line with WFP's objectives, and that resources are allocated and used prudently. • In 2018, WFP's Office of Internal Audit conducted an assurance advisory on Building Blocks, resulting in a favourable review. • In 2018, an industry-leading, independent, specialized blockchain IT security firm (Trail of Bits) carried out a comprehensive review of Building Blocks and found no immediate critical threats. The firm conducted a follow-up review in

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						<p>2019 and certified the implementation of the assessment's recommendations as satisfactory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees commissioned an IT security firm to assess Building Blocks against security standard 27001 of the International Organization for Standardization. No critical threats were identified, and Building Blocks implemented the recommendations from the assessment. In 2020, the TEC-led WFP IT Architectural Board approved Building Blocks as the corporate system for inter-organizational coordination and online transfers. In anticipation of an expanded membership of Building Blocks, WFP is working to create a governance framework that covers membership principles and criteria, onboarding and offboarding processes for members, data protection and privacy, network maintenance, and dispute resolution.
2020/7 Rec 4	Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should ensure that any decision on using blockchain should be based on an appropriate determination of the business case and of the most suitable solution, using as guidance a decision-making matrix.	Partially accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal points: TEC, INK</p> <p>WFP agrees with the CEB inter-agency response to this recommendation, which recognizes the decision making matrix as a guide rather than a set of mandatory rules. WFP has detailed processes for validating new technology applications and innovations and finds the matrix provided in the report to be a useful complementary tool for informing decision making.</p>

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2020/7 Rec 6	Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should encourage Member States to engage with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in its exploratory and preparatory work on legal issues that relate to blockchain in the broader context of the digital economy and digital trade, including on dispute resolution, which is aimed at reducing legal insecurity in that field.	Accepted		Closed	<p>Focal points: TEC, INK</p> <p>WFP welcomes this recommendation and supports the engagement with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. WFP will contribute to any inter-agency action that results from this recommendation.</p> <p>As noted in the CEB inter-agency response, the United Nations Secretariat's Office of Legal Affairs, through the International Trade Law Division, serves as the substantive secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). In this role, the division supports UNCITRAL in carrying out exploratory and preparatory work on legal issues related to the digital economy.</p>
2020/7 Rec 7	Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations that have developed blockchain applications - in line with the call by the Secretary-General in his Roadmap for Digital Cooperation for the United Nations to deploy digital public goods – should follow, whenever possible, open-source principles when they develop software, and make available the codes to other United Nations organizations.	Partially accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal points: TEC, INK</p> <p>WFP agrees with the CEB inter-agency response to this recommendation, which notes the partial agreement of the participating organizations and recognizes the importance of defining the "open-source" principle for each blockchain project, considering practical or technical constraints, security and privacy concerns and factors related to the people and networks affected.</p> <p>WFP supports the open-source standards and enabling other United Nations organizations to freely and independently benefit from the deployed blockchain applications by joining existing networks as independent members. WFP is committed to ensuring system interoperability in order to achieve the full benefits and effects of the blockchain</p>

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						network. For example, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, WFP and the United Nations Innovation Network have developed The Atrium , a blockchain collaboration space that facilitates the sharing of knowledge and source codes.
2020/7 Rec 8	Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations, through the relevant coordination mechanisms, including with support from the United Nations International Computing Centre, should consider the adoption of a non-binding interagency blockchain governance framework for use by interested organizations, with a view to ensuring coherent and consistent blockchain approaches across the system by the end of 2022, including for projects that may involve multiple United Nations organizations.	Accepted		Closed	Focal points: TEC, INK WFP welcomes the recommendation and agrees with the CEB inter-agency response , which notes that inter-agency collaboration is essential in working towards a non-binding inter-agency blockchain governance framework. WFP will contribute to any inter-agency action that results from this recommendation.

* Column 4 acceptance categories: accepted, partially accepted, not accepted.

** Column 5 implementation categories: in progress, implemented. Field left blank if implementation depends on the action of an entity other than WFP or if further action is not planned.

*** Column 6 status categories: open, closed.

ANNEX II: UPDATED STATUS OF JIU RECOMMENDATIONS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD						
Rec. no.	Report	Recommendation	Acceptance*	Implementation**	Status***	Remarks
2020/3 Rec 2	United Nations common premises: current practices and future prospects	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should work together in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to amplify, by the end of 2022, the objectives of common premises, addressing programmatic, public image and environmental sustainability considerations, as well as efficiency gains, and also set out the modalities for tracking results and reporting thereon.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal point: MSD</p> <p>WFP welcomes the recommendation and would support further integration of work on common premises with the objectives of the strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations system for 2020–2030 and with centralized advice and support for United Nations country teams through, for example, the provision of dedicated resources for the growing collaboration between the task team on common premises and facility services and the sustainable United Nations facility at the United Nations Environment Programme.</p> <p>WFP also notes that premises co-location is promoted in its own operations through updated guidelines issued in April 2021, disseminated to regional and country directors and field administration and finance officers, and addressing areas such as expanding the use of common premises, environmental management and the inter-agency approach to common premises.</p> <p>WFP has also continued to update the Board on matters related to the United Nations reform, including the use of common premises, in formal and informal briefings, and remains committed to keeping the Board abreast of developments. As noted in the Update on WFP's implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279</p>

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						(repositioning the United Nations development system) presented at the Board's 2021 second regular session, WFP continues to work towards the targets for business operational efficiency originally set by the Secretary-General and reinforced in the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review. It is noted that 47.6 percent of WFP premises worldwide are common premises shared with other United Nations entities and that WFP had reached a 99 percent completion rate for fully completed country office business operations strategies by December 2021.
2020/1 Rec 6	Review of the state of the investigation function: progress made in the United Nations system organizations in strengthening the investigation function	The legislative bodies of the United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should request that organizations update the terms of reference of their respective audit and oversight committees by the end of 2021 to include, where necessary, appropriate provisions to: (a) review the independence and mandate of the internal oversight office/investigation function; (b) review its budget and staffing requirements; (c) review its overall performance;	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: Inspector General and Oversight Office (OIG) The revised terms of reference of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee approved at the 2021 second regular session of the Board lay out the specific responsibilities of the committee regarding internal oversight functions – internal audit and investigation. Those responsibilities include, <i>inter alia</i> , advising on the independence and mandate of the Office of the Inspector General, reviewing that office's budget and staffing requirements and overall performance and issuing related recommendations, in addition to, under previously established provisions, advising on the selection and performance of the

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		and (d) issue related recommendations.				Inspector General and Director, Oversight Office, and on the annual plan for oversight activities.
2019/6 Rec. 2	Review of audit and oversight committees in the United Nations system	The legislative and/or governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations that have not already done so should ensure that the terms of reference or charter of the audit and oversight committees of their respective organizations are revised to reflect all the internal oversight functions that are part of the responsibilities and activities of the committee, where applicable, by the end of 2021.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: EBS The revised terms of reference of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee include additional responsibilities related to the internal oversight and evaluation functions in line with this recommendation.
2019/6 Rec. 6	Review of audit and oversight committees in the United Nations system	The legislative and/or governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations that have not already done so should request their audit and oversight committees to undertake a self-assessment every year and an independent performance evaluation every three years	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: EBS The revised terms of reference of the Audit Committee approved at the 2018 second regular session of the Board included language on the Audit Committee undertaking an annual self-assessment of its performance, a practice that was incorporated into the committee's rules of procedure (under procedure 6, Audit Committee annual workplan) in March 2016 and recommended in the JIU review of audit and oversight committees in the United Nations system . The

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		and report to them on the results.				<p>committee began to carry out annual self-assessments in March 2018 and these were taken into account by the Board-appointed selection panel for the reappointment of one Audit Committee member in 2020 (WFP/EB.A/2020/10-A) and another in 2022 (WFP/EB.1.2022/9-A).</p> <p>The revised terms of reference of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee approved at the 2021 second regular session of the Board provide for the committee to undertake an independent performance evaluation every three years, with the results reported to the Board and the Executive Director.</p>
2018/7 Rec. 1	Strengthening policy research uptake in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	The Executive Heads of the United Nations system organizations that do not have research guidelines and policies in place should consider establishing, as appropriate, a minimum set of standards on research production and uptake by the end of 2021.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal point: Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division (RAM)</p> <p>WFP recognizes the paramount importance of research in informing its policies, programmes and operational work. This is reflected in the creation of RAM in 2019 and enshrined in the WFP strategic plan (2022–2025), which commits to investing in evidence generation by reinforcing research and analytical capacities and improving the use of evidence.</p> <p>The creation of RAM has broadened the scope of research in WFP from having a “predominantly local bearing on operational activities”, as noted in the JIU report, to</p>

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						<p>include, for example, underpinning global advocacy with evidence.</p> <p>In recent years, emerging technologies have enabled WFP to leverage new types of applied research products.</p> <p>WFP adheres to global standards that ensure analytical rigour and research quality by seeking publication in peer-reviewed journals for products that are sufficiently novel to the scientific community and for algorithms and dashboards in order to monitor the quality of the data that they generate.</p> <p>WFP is informed by the UNESCO publication guidelines for the WFP policy research products to which those guidelines meaningfully apply. RAM has also developed a draft publication strategy with cross-departmental leadership.</p> <p>New products continue to emerge offering new possibilities to strengthen research uptake while also presenting challenges to the development of universally applicable standards. To strengthen research uptake, WFP has leveraged data visualization and created central open-source platforms to ensure that evidence is accessible and easy to interpret for policy-makers and the wider humanitarian community. Initiatives include an upgrade of WFP's DataViz platform, which offers improved access to WFP research and</p>

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						evidence, and regular updating of the VAM Resource Centre . Bespoke products that can be downloaded, such as HungerMapLIVE 's automated reports, have also been developed to offer immediate insights and evidence relating to global food security in real-time.
2018/4 Rec. 7	Review of whistle-blower policies and practices in United Nations system organizations	Executive heads of United Nations system organizations should develop standard operating procedures by 2020 for handling retaliation cases, with specific checklists and protocols for investigation, support services and communication.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal points: Ethics Office (ETO), OIG WFP has standard operating procedures (SOPs) for investigations. Updated SOPs related to OIG investigation standards and applicable to all investigations, including those involving whistleblower retaliation, have been issued. The Office of Inspections and Investigations (OIGI) has reviewed Executive Director's 2020 circular on the protection against retaliation policy (or whistleblower protection policy) (OED 2020/022) and determined that OIG's Charter , and OIGI's investigation guidelines, SOPs and templates, enable OIGI to manage investigations "arising out of a request for protection against retaliation" ⁴ as outlined in the circular and that no additional processes or procedures are required. ETO has developed SOPs for handling retaliation cases and has initiated efforts to increase staff awareness of the revised whistleblower protection policy. In

⁴ Paragraph 16 of OED 2020/022 states: "The investigation of alleged misconduct by OIGI and a review of a request for protection against retaliation by the Ethics Office are two separate processes that are performed by different, independent offices. Matters reported to the Ethics Office requesting protection against retaliation are evaluated, and, when warranted, are referred to OIGI. OIGI will subsequently investigate allegations arising out of a request for protection against retaliation."

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						addition to regular training sessions, in 2021 ETO conducted six virtual training sessions for 70 respectful workplace advisors and ethics ambassadors on the revised whistleblower protection policy and will continue to develop organization-wide awareness of retaliation and whistleblower protection as part of the rollout of circular OED 2020/022.
2017/9 Rec. 1	Review of mechanisms and policies addressing conflict of interest in the United Nations system	Executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should direct their officials entrusted with the ethics function to map the most common occurrences and register the risks of situations exposing their respective organizations to organizational conflicts of interest, no later than December 2019.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	<p>Focal point: ETO</p> <p>ETO has worked with the Enterprise Risk Management Division to develop a survey on which to base the mapping of organizational conflicts of interest. In the fourth quarter of 2021, all regional bureaux and country office directors and all relevant staff in headquarters divisions were invited to complete a questionnaire aimed at sharing perspectives and registering risks of situations in which conflicts of interest could arise.</p> <p>To ensure that risk mapping is effectively incorporated into WFP's existing risk structure and reporting on findings, recommendations and mitigating measures, further analysis will be carried out in 2022 and the findings and recommendations will be reported to WFP's leadership group. ETO will also highlight findings in its annual reporting to the Board.</p>

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2017/3 Rec. 6	Review of air travel policies in the United Nations system: Achieving efficiency gains and cost savings and enhancing harmonization	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations, if they have not already done so, should encourage the use of online booking tools for air travel, update their travel policies with guidelines for optimal use of such tools, and consider integrating them with their existing systems by 2020.	Accepted	Implemented	Closed	Focal point: MSD WFP has developed a self-service travel platform, which was piloted at headquarters and in the Global Support Services' India Travel Group in 2019. Following the upgrade of the WFP Information Network and Global System and the relaxation of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the rollout of the online booking platform has resumed, with full implementation expected in the first quarter of 2022.

* Column 4 acceptance categories: accepted, partially accepted, not accepted.

** Column 5 implementation categories: in progress, implemented. Field left blank if implementation depends on the action of an entity other than WFP or if further action is not planned.

*** Column 6 status categories: open, closed.

ANNEX III

Hyperlinks to JIU reports and comments of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Report reference	Report name and hyperlink	CEB comments
JIU/REP/2021/3	Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations	Not yet available
JIU/REP/2021/2	Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action	Not yet available
JIU/REP/2020/8	Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	A/76/286/Add.1
JIU/REP/2020/7	Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	A/76/325/Add.1
JIU/REP/2020/6	Multilingualism in the United Nations system	A/75/960/Add.1
JIU/REP/2020/3	United Nations common premises: current practices and future prospects	A/75/730/Add.1
JIU/REP/2020/1	Review of the state of the investigation function: progress made in the United Nations system organizations in strengthening the investigation function	A/75/719/Add.1
JIU/REP/2019/6	Review of audit and oversight committees in the United Nations system	A/74/670/Add.1
JIU/REP/2018/7	Strengthening policy research uptake in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	A/74/216/Add.1
JIU/REP/2018/4	Review of whistle-blower policies and practices in United Nations system organizations	A/73/665/Add.1
JIU/REP/2017/9	Review of mechanisms and policies addressing conflict of interest in the United Nations system	A/73/187/Add.1
JIU/REP/2017/3	Review of air travel policies in the United Nations system: Achieving efficiency gains and cost savings and enhancing harmonization	A/72/629/Add.1

Acronyms

CEB	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
CSP	country strategic plan
EBS	Executive Board Secretariat
ETO	Ethics Office
INK	Innovation and Knowledge Management Division
IT	information technology
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
LLDC	landlocked developing country
MSD	Management Services Division
NYC	United Nations System and Multilateral Engagement Division
OIG	Inspector General and Oversight Office
OIGI	Office of Inspections and Investigations
PRO	Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division
SOP	standard operating procedure
TEC	Technology Division
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law