

Governing Body – 341st Session, March 2021
Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Audit and Oversight Segment

Workers' Group Comments

Document for Ballot by Correspondence

GB.341/PFA/10
Matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit

The Workers' Group thanks the Office for the document and information related to the eight reports between 2018 and 2019.

Regarding the recommendation on *strengthening policy research uptake in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* we concur with the comments made by the CEB, notably the importance to take account of each organization's mandate and strategic objectives. We also refer the Office to the comments we made on the research strategy in October 2019 and on the high-level evaluation on research and knowledge management strategies and approaches last November.

On the *review of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women* we took note of the Office's commitment to enhance its efforts to improve performance within the framework of the ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018-21, while maintaining its alignment with the System-wide Action Plan. We also invite the Office to participate in the review process of the next phases of the action plan in 2022-23.

Following the *review of the integration of disaster risk reduction in the work of the United Nations system in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* we concur with the Office comments. We also would like to highlight the centrality of the ILO's standards, in particular R. 205, in strengthening peaceful and resilient societies as the key ILO contribution to disaster risk reduction, including in relation to the ILO's response to the Covid-19 crisis.

On the *review of change management in United Nations system organizations* we note with satisfaction that all recommendations are already in place in the ILO.

In respect of *managing cloud computing services in the United Nations system*, the Workers' Group concurs with the comments of the CEB and the Office. We support the Office in thoroughly checking cost-effectiveness and choice of cloud provider on a case by case basis in terms of modernising its cloud computing services.

On the *review of audit and oversight committees in the United Nations system* we took note of the Office's response to the relevant recommendations. We also refer the Office to the comment we will make on the Report of the IOAC that contains proposed changes to the Committee's terms of reference. (GB.341/PFA/8)

Turning to the *review of staff exchange and similar inter-agency mobility measures in United Nations system organizations*, we have taken note of the CEB comments. We noted that the Office is still considering recommendations 7 and 9 due to issues related to compatibility with the ILO's internal rules and governance framework. In terms of creating a common management

structure (recommendation 7), we agree that this should be seen in the light of the complex changes to management structures that are part of the UN reform. In particular, a greater understanding and promotion of the ILO's tripartite structure and normative system throughout the UN reform process is of utmost importance in that regard. We support the non-acceptance of recommendation 8 regarding the competition for UN staff and ILO staff. Any further deliberations on these issues should also include consultation with the ILO staff union.

Lastly, on the *review of contemporary practices in the external outsourcing of services to commercial service providers by United Nations system organizations* we agree with the CEB and Office comments. We took note that the ILO procurement procedures and IT governance mechanisms regarding outsourced services, including its risk assessments, are in line with the recommendations accepted and that the ILO will carefully assess additional action in terms of any added value and cost effectiveness.