

Reference document concerning “Matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)” (GB.346/PFA/9)

▶ ILO’s follow-up status on the JIU recommendations presented to the Governing Body at the current session, as of July 2022 ¹

The information is presented in a table structured as follows:

Column 1: Reference number and title of the report/note;

Column 2: Recommendation number;

Column 3: Text of the recommendation;

Column 4: Addressee: “L” indicates when a recommendation is addressed for decision by legislative organ; “E” when a recommendation is addressed for action by executive head; and “I” when a recommendation is addressed for action by internal audit/oversight head;

Column 5: Intended impact:

- “Enhanced transparency and accountability”;
- “Dissemination of good/best practices”;
- “Enhanced coordination and cooperation”;
- “Strengthened coherence and harmonisation”;
- “Enhanced control and compliance”;
- “Enhanced effectiveness”;
- “Significant financial savings”;
- “Enhanced efficiency”; and
- “Other”.

Column 6: Acceptance status: “Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”.

Column 7: Implementation status: “Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”;

Column 8: Impact achieved: “Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”; and

Column 9: Remarks.

¹ The JIU reports are available on the JIU website: <http://www.unjiu.org/> in English, French and Spanish, among other UN official languages.

Status of ILO follow-up to JIU recommendations as of July 2022

Report	Rec. No	Recommendation	Addressee	Intended impact	Acceptance "Accepted"; "Not accepted"; "Under consideration"; and "Not relevant"	Implementation "Not started"; "In progress"; and "Implemented"	Impact achieved "Yes"; "Partially"; and "No"	Remarks
JIU/REP/2020/7: Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	1	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.	L	Strengthened coherence and harmonisation	Accepted	Implemented		The Governing Body endorsed the ILO Information Technology (IT) Strategy 2022–25 at its 343rd Session in November 2021, along with relevant guidance, including on adoption of new digital technologies that drive innovation.
JIU/REP/2020/7: Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	2	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	E	Enhanced effectiveness	Accepted	Implemented		The ILO's IT Governance Framework includes risk assessment and compliance assessment activities in the process of adoption of any new technology and an ongoing governance, risk and compliance assessment of existing technologies and their use in the organization.

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		reputation.						
JIU/REP/2020/7: Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	4	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.	E	Enhanced effectiveness	Accepted	Implemented		The ILO has institutionalized IT governance processes, responsibilities, authorities and accountability framework, to ensure strategic and optimal use of IT throughout the Office. The IT governance ensures that: IT initiatives sustain and extend Office-wide objectives and strategies; IT investments deliver maximum value based on clear priorities; IT assets are safeguarded; IT performance is measured and reported; IT solutions comply with legal and regulatory requirements; and IT operational, security and project risks are managed.
JIU/REP/2020/7: Blockchain applications in the United Nations	6	The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should encourage Member States to engage with the United Nations Commission on	L	Dissemination of good/best practices	Under consideration			

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system: towards a state of readiness		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”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	
JIU/REP/2020/7: Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness	8	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 inter-agency blockchain governance framework for use by interested organizations, with a view to ensuring coherent and consistent blockchain approaches across the	E	Strengthened coherence and harmonisation	Accepted	In progress		The ILO takes active part in inter-agency initiatives through the Digital & Technology Network (DTN) under the High-level Committee on Management of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as well as the UN International Computing Centre. The ILO attended information sessions organized by DTN member UN agencies that showcased blockchain pilot implementations and will follow up on the development of a non-binding inter-agency

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					“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	
		system by the end of 2022, including for projects that may involve multiple United Nations organizations.						blockchain governance framework.
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	1	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.	E	Enhanced effectiveness	Accepted	Implemented		The ILO Director-General has announced the ILO Environmental Sustainability Policy and ILO Environmental Management system in January 2016. Accordingly, the ILO has in place a full set of mechanisms for a systematic approach to environmental sustainability in policies, programmes and operations in the headquarters and field offices.
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the	2	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	L	Enhanced effectiveness	Accepted	Implemented		The ILO Governing Body adopted a decision at its November 2020 session, in which it requested the Director-General to <i>inter alia</i> continue to pursue carbon neutrality at the ILO, in line with the United Nations target

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United Nations system		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”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	to reach carbon neutrality by 2020 and to report back to the Governing Body on the implementation of that request. However, in the ILO the performance and the results are presented to the Governing Body biennially, not annually.
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	3	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.	E	Enhanced transparency and accountability	Accepted	Implemented		To date, as the ILO seeks to mainstream environmental sustainability into its operations, the necessary resources are allocated from the operational budget of each business unit, instead of specific budget plans for environmental sustainability.

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JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	4	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.	E	Enhanced transparency and accountability	Accepted	Implemented	“Accepted”; “Not started”; “Not accepted”; “In progress”; “Under consideration”; “Implemented” and “Not relevant”	<p>“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”</p> <p>The Office is committed to making sustainable procurement its standard practice progressively and in full respect of the right to access to the UN market for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This commitment is reflected in the ILO Procurement Manual which describes the ILO’s approach to sustainable procurement and provides relevant guidance.</p> <p>In operational terms, the Procurement Bureau works actively with key internal stakeholders e.g. the internal Services and Administration Department, Information and Technology Management Department, and development cooperation projects, among others, to incorporate environmental sustainability</p>

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					“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	criteria in tender documents and subsequent contracts.
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	5	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.	E	Enhanced coordination and cooperation	Not accepted			Environmental sustainability understanding and behaviours will be introduced into the Leadership Competency Profile and validated as part of the High-Level Assessment Centre for recruitment to senior management positions. The importance of encouraging these behaviours in other positions is included in the performance appraisal of managers. The ILO has a variety of recruitment and selection processes, some of which are the subject of a collective agreement with the Staff Union Committee – changes to these processes are subject to negotiation.
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming	6	The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the	E	Enhanced efficiency	Accepted	In progress		The ILO has a network of focal points at its headquarters and in field offices, who undertake

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					<p>“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”</p>	<p>“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”</p>	<p>“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”</p>	
<p>environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system</p>		<p>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.</p>						<p>the completion of the Greening the Blue Environmental Inventory each year and drive environmental improvements at the local level. This network engages with the ILO’s Environmental Sustainability Committee (the committee with overall responsibility for the ILO’s Environmental Management Systems) by proposing actions, objectives and targets for the ILO’s Environmental Sustainability Action Plan on a biennial basis. They are responsible for providing updates on the progress towards the established objectives and targets. In addition to sharing best practice via HQ, there is also regional sharing of best practice.</p> <p>The ILO also continuously engages in inter-agency collaboration to reduce the</p>

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					“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	environmental impacts of shared UN compounds. These efforts will be pursued through to the end of 2022 and beyond.
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	7	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 participants and students – and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and	E	Strengthened coherence and harmonization	Accepted	Implemented		Since the 2016-17 biennium, in the framework of the biennial Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, the ILO has been systematically integrating environmental sustainability considerations in the policies and practices relating to official document production, ILO official correspondence, and conference services.

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		governing bodies from 2023.						
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	8	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.	E	Enhanced effectiveness	Accepted	Implemented		<p>Policies and practices relating to key official meetings such as the International Labour Conference and sessions of the Governing Body have been applied incrementally since the 2016-17 biennium.</p> <p>Internal discussions will be required to consider the feasibility and possible alternatives to address recommendation 8 in the ILO field offices.</p>
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the	9	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	E	Enhanced efficiency	Not accepted			With respect to the greenhouse gas emissions related to information and communications technology (ICT) and in view of the section on ICT management in the JIU report, the Office has the

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<p>United Nations system</p>		<p>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.</p>						<p>following observations. Firstly, in order to set a target by end-2022, the UN System would need to have a recognized methodology for separately baselining ICT greenhouse gas emissions. To date, the ILO is not aware of such efforts. Secondly, it would be necessary to establish the targets and to clarify who would be responsible to do so. Thirdly, the timeline set for end-2022 seems ambitious and perhaps unfeasible. An agreed methodology and targets throughout the system are lacking at present, and would require some time to be developed. In addition, ILO’s work activities are organized by biennium. The Office has already established deliverables and budget requirements for the ongoing biennium 2022-23, rendering it</p>

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					“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	
								extremely difficult to do more than already established.
JIU/REP/2020/8: Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system	10	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.	E	Enhanced effectiveness	Accepted	Implemented		Since the 2016-17 biennium, the ILO has been systematically integrating environmental sustainability considerations in the policies and practices relating to official document production and conference services. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governing Body sessions in November 2020 and March 2021 were held virtually and all associated documentation were available online.
JIU/REP/2021/2: Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the	1	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	E	Enhanced coordination and cooperation	Not accepted			The ILO does not use the landlocked developing countries (LLDC) category to provide a differentiated policy and technical assistance to the member States, as it operates based on the country needs.

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Vienna Programme of Action		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.			“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	<p>The condition of being landlocked affects the development status including the ability of those economies to create decent jobs and make progress on human and social development. The challenges, needs and priorities in landlocked countries, including those stemming from their landlocked situation, are reflected and addressed in their Decent Work Country Programmes that are in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. The ILO's support is accordingly extended to LLDCs, through promotion of policies, partnerships and standards that address the consequences of their landlocked situation.</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p>

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					“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	should be the overarching framework to support the economic, human and social development of countries, including those confronted with challenges related to their land-locked condition. The Office is of the view that the content of the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs has been taken on board in the 2030 Agenda which is a framework for ILO’s action.
JIU/REP/2021/2: Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action	3	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.	E	Enhanced transparency and accountability Enhanced control and compliance	Not accepted			The ILO has a strategic framework which supports all member States, including LLDCs. ILO assistance to constituents in member States is prepared and delivered primarily within the framework of time-bound, results-based and resourced Decent Work Country Programmes. Decent Work

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					“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	Country Programmes define the ILO strategy for the promotion of decent work in accordance with the specific characteristics and needs of each country, with outcomes, outputs and deliverables as agreed by ILO constituents. Common principles but country-specific implementation strategies apply, reflecting the development path of each country. Decent Work Country Programmes are regularly reviewed in terms of priorities, strategies, resources, and results achieved. They inform and are informed by the priorities of the Organization established in the biennial Programme and Budget.
JIU/REP/2021/2: Review of United Nations system support for	7	The legislative organs and governing bodies of United Nations system organizations should issue directives, if they	L	Enhanced control and compliance	Not accepted			See comments on Recommendations 1 and 3 above.

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landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action		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.		Enhanced effectiveness	“Accepted”; “Not accepted”; “Under consideration”; and “Not relevant”	“Not started”; “In progress”; and “Implemented”	“Yes”; “Partially”; and “No”	The ILO Governing Body regularly provides guidance to the formulation and implementation of ILO Decent Work Country Programmes through the review of biennial Programme and Budget documents, biennial Programme Implementation Reports, high-level evaluations, and the ILO Development Cooperation Strategy.
JIU/REP/2021/3: Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations	1	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	E	Enhanced effectiveness	Accepted	In progress		The Office presents “Review of the ILO’s cybersecurity framework” (GB.346/PFA/3) at the current Governing Body session, October-November 2022.

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“Accepted”; “Not started”;
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 “Under and “Not
 consideration”; “Implemented”
 and “Not relevant”

report.

JIU/REP/2021/3: Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations	2	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.	L	Enhanced effectiveness	Under consideration			See comments on Recommendation 1 above.
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