

**Governing Body – 340<sup>th</sup> Session, October-November 2020**  
**Programme, Financial and Administrative Section**  
**Audit and Oversight Segment**

**Workers' Group Comments**

**DOCUMENT FOR BALLOT BY CORRESPONDENCE**

**GB.340/PFA/9(Rev.1)**

**Report of the Chief Internal Auditor for the year ended 31 December 2019**

We thank the Chief Internal Auditor for his report and recommendations on headquarters and field audits. We noted with satisfaction that no major weaknesses were identified in the ILO's system of internal control, although a number of areas required improvement. We invite the Office to follow-up on these recommendations as soon as possible.

We welcome the fact that the IAO's mandate now includes the authority to conduct investigations into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as retaliation against whistle-blowers referred by the Ethics Officer.

We welcome the recommendations made on IT particularly those related to: reviewing and actualizing the information security management system; strengthening information technology security through encryption of devices and ensuring timely completion of the online IT security awareness training course for all ILO officials; and providing further access to IRIS to development cooperation projects.

In respect of the information contained in paragraph 27, we fully support the recommendation on the update of IT security policies. IT security is particularly important in the current environment, where more than 50% of staff is working from home and most activities are carried out via online platforms. IT security policies should include security related to ILO work information, but also in respect of the protection of personal staff information at headquarters and in the field.

In respect of the audit of the HQ building renovation project we fully support the recommendation made in paragraph 36 and invite the Office to use an abstract guarantee which would better protect the ILO.

We also fully support the recommendation aimed at ensuring that external collaborators benefit from the same security protection as other ILO staff members when travelling as per the requirement of the UN Department of Safety and Security.

Regarding investigations, we welcome the information provided by the Chief Internal Auditor during the consultations held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September concerning the recruitment of two persons to help clear the backlog of investigations of allegations.

Finally, we stress the importance for the Office to follow-up on the recommendations made. We agree with the decision point.