

Governing Body - 343rd Session, November 2021
Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Audit and Oversight Segment

Workers' Group Comments

Document for Ballot by Correspondence

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Matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit

The Workers' Group thanks the Office for the document and information related to the five reports of 2020 that are relevant for the ILO. We took note of the different recommendations and the comments made by the Office in the accompanying reference documents.

We support the position taken by the Office in respect of the recommendations on the review of the investigation function in the UN system and efforts made towards strengthening the investigation function as an integral part of greater organisational accountability.

We support the ongoing consultative process undertaken on recommendation 3 given that provisions related to the resolution of harassment grievances are subject to a collective agreement and that any change requires renegotiation of these provisions.

The Workers' Group also concurs with the position taken by the Office in respect of one aspect of recommendation 5 on imposition of time-limits for the Chief Internal Auditor and its incompatibility with ILO staff rules and regulations.

On the second report covering policies and platforms to support learning, we concur with the position of the Office, in particular with regards to recommendation 6 on external platforms which was not accepted due to concerns over effectiveness, increased learning uptake and an inadequate level of diversity in external course content.

We would like to further underline the importance that any consideration around a more collaborative approach to capacity building within the UN system needs to be respectful of the unique role that the ILO Turin Centre plays at international level in terms of providing capacity building to ILO constituents.

In respect of the report on UN common premises, we do agree that the report goes beyond its designated topic by including statements on the UN reform. As such, we support the position of the Office in respect of the recommendations. When it comes to common premises we wish to reiterate the need to ensure free access to workers' organizations to UN/ILO premises. More generally, we stress once again the importance to secure respect for the tripartite nature of the ILO and its rights' based mandate as part of the UN reform, especially at country level.

On recommendation 5 which is currently under consideration, we would like to underline the importance of the tripartite structure of the ILO when discussing greater collaboration on PPPs within the UN system. While there may be merit in learning from best practices among UN agencies, we are not in favour of any attempt to centrally administer public-private partnerships that may circumvent the ILO's internal mechanisms on PPP appraisals which has as one of its

important criteria the need for companies to respect ILO values and international labour standards.

On enterprise risk management, we concur with the comments made by the Office and consider the periodicity of discussions at the Governing Body on risk management as sufficient.

Lastly, on the report on Multilingualism, we agree with the statements made by the CEB and the Office on the relevant recommendations, notably their non-acceptance of two recommendations given that other relevant inter-agency arrangements have been put in place.

We note with satisfaction that the ILO is further engaging in the promotion of multilingualism in the UN system through the appointment of an ILO CEB Focal Point Coordinator on Multilingualism.