



FOR INFORMATION

FOURTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Matters relating to the Joint Inspection
Unit: Reports of the JIU**

Contents

| | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2006 and programme of work for 2007..... | 1 |
| Other JIU reports | 1 |

Matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit: Reports of the JIU

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2006 and programme of work for 2007

1. This report¹ consists of two chapters: annual report for 2006 (Chapter I) and programme of work for 2007 (Chapter II). The first chapter covers the reform of the JIU, implementation of the programme of work for 2006, reports issued in 2006, follow-up to recommendations, relationship with other oversight bodies, and administrative issues of the JIU secretariat. The second chapter presents 11 reviews to be undertaken in 2007. Of the reports issued in 2006, two reports concern the ILO: “Oversight lacunae in the United Nations system” (JIU/REP/2006/2) which was included in the Governing Body document submitted to the November session in 2006, and “A second review of the implementation of headquarters agreements concluded by United Nations system organizations: Provision of headquarters premises and other facilities by host countries” (JIU/REP/2006/4) which is included in this document. The ILO is actively participating in the reviews ongoing in 2007 on system-wide issues.
2. The report also provides in its annexes the composition of the JIU and list of participating organizations and their percentage share in the cost of the JIU in 2006. The ILO’s contribution represents 3.4 per cent of the total costs.
3. Like other thematic JIU reports, this report is available on the JIU web site in English, French and Spanish, as well as in other UN official languages. The URL for each report is provided in the footnote.

Other JIU reports

4. In accordance with the established procedure, as reaffirmed by the Governing Body at its 294th Session (November 2005),² the Office submits to the Governing Body a summary of JIU reports that contain recommendations addressed in part to the ILO – either the Director-General or the Governing Body – along with the comments issued by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). There are two such reports to submit to the current GB session:
 - (a) JIU/REP/2005/7 and Corr.1, “Policies of United Nations system organizations towards the use of open source software for development”;³

¹ UN General Assembly, Official Records, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/62/34) http://www.unjiu.org/data/en/annual_reports/arwp_en_2007.pdf.

² GB.294/PV, para. 210.

³ http://www.unjiu.org/data/reports/2005/en2005_7.pdf
http://www.unjiu.org/data/reports/2005/en2005_7Corr.pdf.

- (b) JIU/REP/2006/4, “A second review of the implementation of headquarters agreements concluded by United Nations system organizations: Provision of headquarters premises and other facilities by host countries”;⁴

(a) “Policies of United Nations system organizations towards the use of open source software for development” (JIU/REP/2005/7 and Corr.1, and A/61/94/Add.1)

5. The objective of this report is “to contribute in raising awareness on the potential role of open source software (OSS) for the achievement of specific objectives set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Plan of Action adopted in 2003 by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)”. In exploring the extent to which OSS can further the achievement of the MDGs, the report highlights the use of OSS in various areas, such as e-governance, economic development (microfinance), education and health, and elaborates on the enabling environment required for increased, wide-scale OSS usage. It also reviews the related activities of UN system organizations, as well as initiatives in the framework of Official Development Assistance (ODA) programmes or under multi-stakeholder partnerships.
6. Members of the CEB generally concur with the recommendations contained in the report and are supportive of the main findings. However, they note that the report fails to provide a comprehensive, balanced analysis of the benefits and drawbacks of free and open source software use in comparison with other software models.
7. The report contains only one recommendation (Recommendation 3) that concerns the ILO. It asks the executive heads of the UN system organizations to consider as appropriate measures to increase awareness of OSS, to develop software applications under OSS licences and make them accessible to various stakeholders, and to provide support to member States’ pro-poor policies geared at promoting digital inclusion.
8. The Office supports the CEB comments. In addition, the Office notes that OSS is a tool rather than an end in itself. OSS is important if: (a) it serves as a depository of formal knowledge, allowing effective training and retraining in the creation and maintenance of applications; and (b) if the returns on investment justify the use of OSS.

(b) “A second review of the implementation of headquarters agreements concluded by United Nations system organizations: Provision of headquarters premises and other facilities by host countries” (JIU/REP/2006/4 and A/61/694/Add.1)

9. This report aims “to identify best practices in the provision of headquarters premises and other facilities under the headquarters agreements concluded by the United Nations organizations, with the view to contributing to effective and consistent practices and policies throughout the United Nations system”.
10. The CEB members generally welcome the findings and recommendations contained in the report. Most of the UN system organizations report that, in general, they enjoy an excellent relationship with their host country governments and are very satisfied with the host

⁴ http://www.unjiu.org/data/reports/2006/en2006_4.pdf.

country agreements in place. Many also note that they maintain a straightforward dialogue with their host country on any issue that may arise and that they receive excellent, and occasionally generous, services in many cases. Furthermore, it is noted that many organizations are already taking steps as regards most of the recommendations that are directed to the UN system organizations in the report.

- 11.** This report contains seven recommendations that concern the ILO. Three of them (Recommendations 1, 3 and 7) are addressed to the executive heads of UN organizations, to remind their officials and staff members of their obligation to be exemplary in respecting laws, regulations, traditions and habits of the host countries; to negotiate with and encourage the host countries to provide more generous facilities to the organizations in the acquisition or refurbishment of the headquarters premises; to remind the host countries of their obligations under the headquarters agreements to issue visas free of charge and in a timely fashion to staff and officials of UN organizations; to encourage host countries to establish a reasonable time frame for the processing of visas; and to report back to the legislative bodies on progress made in this regard.
- 12.** The other four recommendations (Recommendations 2, 4, 5 and 10) are addressed to the legislative bodies of UN organizations, to remind the host countries of their legal obligations concerning the headquarters agreements and that the full implementation of headquarters agreements is also to their benefit; to request their respective executive heads to report back at appropriate intervals on the implementation of the headquarters agreements; to establish a special fund to ensure adequate financial resources for major repairs and refurbishments of their headquarters premises in their regular budgets; to consider establishing a joint formal forum among the UN organizations headquartered in the same host country, similar to the Committee on Relations with the Host Country in New York, in order to enhance relations with the host country; to ensure adequate resource allocation for this formal forum from their regular budget; to allocate appropriate financial resources to ensure adequate and realistic security facilities in all their duty stations; and to remind host countries of their obligation to provide adequate security for UN organizations' premises and staff.
- 13.** The ILO joins the CEB comments and notes the reminders of the JIU to member States for compliance with their obligations under the applicable headquarters agreements and other legal instruments.⁵ The ILO is among the many UN system organizations that already take steps on a number of issues addressed by the report and maintain constructive dialogue with the host countries on any issues of concern.

Geneva, 30 August 2007.

Submitted for information.

⁵ A document on the status of privileges and immunities of the International Labour Organization has been placed on the agenda of the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards (GB.300/LILS/3) at the current session of the Governing Body.