



Check Against Delivery

United Nations General Assembly Seventy-second Session

Fifth Committee

Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit
“Safety and security in the United Nations system”

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the note of the Secretary-General conveying his comments and those of CEB members on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit “Safety and security in the United Nations system” as contained in document A/72/118/Add.1.

Organizations welcome this report, noting that it comes at a time of increasing challenges for the safety and security of United Nations personnel. Organizations found many useful points for action as well as many relevant recommendations intended to strengthen safety and security throughout the United Nations system.

While expressing appreciation for the report, organizations also indicated areas where the report could have been improved through further in-depth analysis, highlighting in particular the role of the security management system in delivering humanitarian assistance. Organizations also suggested that the report could have been strengthened with a more comprehensive analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the existing security management system, noting that this was included in the original terms of reference.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, these comments aside, as you can see from the note of the Secretary-General, organizations expressed support for many of the recommendations presented by the JIU, although with additional comments. For example, while organizations support the spirit of recommendation 1, which calls for adapting existing host country agreements, they questioned whether those agreements provided the flexibility needed to respond to fluctuating security environments. Organisations further noted that the recommendation is premised on the assumption that host country arrangements can be updated contemporaneously with changing security situations and expressed concerns regarding the feasibility of implementing the recommendation, particularly by the deadline of April 2018.

Another example worth noting is the response to recommendation 6, which calls for organizations to strengthen their analytical capabilities of social media and other relevant big data sources which can support safety and security activities. In their response organizations strongly welcome this timely suggestion, although as a side issue they questioned some of the implementation mechanics included as part of the recommendation.

In closing, on behalf of the organizations of the UN system, I would like to thank the JIU for this report, which covered a topic of interest to CEB members and importance to the entire UN system.

Of course, I stand ready to answer any questions you or the committee may have.

Thank you