



The Joint Inspection Unit Celebrates 50 Years

This article is part of an ongoing series to commemorate the Joint Inspection Unit's 50th anniversary and highlight the JIU's work and achievements over the last 50 years.

This year, 2016, marks the 50th anniversary of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System (JIU). The JIU was established at the 21st session of the United Nations General Assembly as the only independent external oversight body of the UN system. At that time, the JIU was an innovative creation of the General Assembly; it was and remains the only entity mandated with conducting inspections, evaluations, and investigations system-wide.

The JIU's mandate is to look at cross-cutting issues and to act as an agent for change across the United Nations system. The JIU works to secure management and administrative efficiency and to promote greater coordination both between UN agencies and with other internal and external oversight bodies.

For the past 50 years, the JIU has been dedicated to assisting the legislative bodies of numerous UN organizations and agencies in meeting their governance responsibilities. The JIU provides support

in the context of these agencies' oversight function regarding human, financial and other resources.

In its reports and notes, the JIU identifies best practices, proposes benchmarks and facilitates information-sharing throughout all the organizations of the UN system that have adopted its Statute.

The origins of the Joint Inspection Unit date back to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2150 (XXI) and 2360 (XXII) adopted in 1966 and 1967 respectively, which established the JIU on a temporary basis. It became operational as of 1 January 1968.

In 1976 the Unit was established as a permanent subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly and the governing bodies of its participating organizations (i.e. organizations in the UN system which adopted the JIU Statute.)

During the initial 10 year period, the JIU issued 75 reports on a range of subjects including programming and budgeting, methods of measuring performance and costs, personnel issues with the UN, cost accounting in the organizations of the UN, the use of travel funds in the UN, medium-term planning, the use of experts and consultants, and office accommodations for UN staff in Geneva.

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The UN General Assembly in 1966 (Copyright United Nations Photos)

Commemoration campaign

The JIU's 50th anniversary represents an opportunity for the Unit to reflect upon its progress on many fronts while recommitting itself to better serving the interests of its participating organizations and their Member States. To commemorate this occasion, the JIU is launching a communications campaign this fall, during which the organization will hold several events and publish a series of articles highlighting its work and achievements since 1966.

"The JIU has come a long way since its founding and is an integral component of the United Nations System. We have experienced a great deal of success over the past 50 years and hope to continue that success in the future."

**Inspector G. Achamkulangare,
Chair of the JIU**

The 50th anniversary campaign will coincide with the 4th Biennial Meeting of JIU Focal Points, which brings together representatives of the organizations who have joined the JIU Statute. At this occasion, JIU inspectors and staff will have a chance to reflect on improvements for JIU's work and interact with participating organizations.

As part of this celebration, this year's gathering of focal points will also include a panel discussion entitled "Oversight in the United Nations system: challenges and opportunities for the Joint Inspection Unit." The panel will include representatives from the United Nations oversight community, from the JIU's participating organizations and from the Unit itself. It will be held at the end of September at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

*((Enhancing efficiency, effectiveness,
accountability and transparency across
the United Nations system))*