



ARTICLE 1 - JIU60

The Joint Inspection Unit celebrates 60 years of External Independent Oversight

This article is part of a series published in the context of the 60th anniversary of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Sixty years of oversight in service of the UN System

Year 2026 marks the 60th anniversary of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System (JIU). Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966, initially on a provisional basis, the JIU was an innovative creation of the Assembly and remains the only external independent oversight body of the United Nations system empowered with a system wide purview. Its mandate focuses on identifying cross-cutting issues, promoting efficiency and effectiveness in management and administration and strengthening coordination across UN system organizations and with other oversight bodies.

For 60 years, the JIU has supported the legislative and governing bodies of participating organizations in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities, particularly with regard to the use of human, financial and other resources. Through its reports, the Unit identifies good practices, proposes benchmarks and facilitates system-wide learning among organizations that have adopted its Statute. The United Nations General Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide oversight body.

“ *The JIU’s 60th anniversary represents an opportunity for the Unit to reflect on its progress while reaffirming its commitment to serving the interests of its participating organizations and their Member States.* ”

Looking back and looking ahead

Reaching 60 years is not only a milestone in longevity, but a testament to the enduring relevance of independent oversight in an increasingly complex United Nations system. From its early years as a temporary body to its role today as a permanent system-wide mechanism, the JIU has continuously adapted its approaches through thematic reviews, strengthened follow-up of recommendations, and the use of digital tools to enhance transparency and impact.

These efforts have reinforced the JIU’s role as one of the agents for change and a source of independent, evidence-based analysis across the UN system



60th anniversary logo



*Inspector Conrod HUNTE,
Chair of the JIU for the year 2026*

A year-long information and outreach campaign

The 60th 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 mark this milestone, the JIU is launching a communications campaign that will run throughout 2026. This campaign will feature a series of articles, interviews, social media content, podcasts and events highlighting key milestones, thematic achievements and personal perspectives from individuals who have shaped the Unit's work since 1966.

As part of this effort, this anniversary provides an opportunity to refresh the JIU's visual identity, including a commemorative logo and updated design elements reflecting both continuity as well as renewal.

The JIU will also launch its official LinkedIn account, further strengthening outreach, engagement and dialogue with Member States, partners and stakeholders across the UN system.

Throughout 2026, the JIU invites stakeholders to follow and engage with its anniversary activities as the Unit celebrates its past, showcases its present and looks confidently toward the future.

“ *The JIU has come a long way since its founding and is now an integral component of the United Nations system. While we reflect on six decades of progress, we remain focused on the future and on continuing to add value through independent, evidence-based oversight.* ”



*Inspector Conrod HUNTE,
Chair of the JIU for the year 2026*



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