

JIU60 High-Level Panel Discussion

Independent Oversight Mechanisms in the United Nations System

11 June 2026 | 3:00 p.m. Geneva time

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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM



EXTERNAL
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OVERSIGHT

60 YEARS

Purpose of the Discussion

- Explain the role of oversight in the United Nations system
- Highlight the complementary roles of JIU, OIOS and BOA
- Discuss independence, accountability and coordination
- Explore how oversight contributes to reform and learning

Panelists

- Ms. Fatoumata Ndiaye – Under-Secretary-General, Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)
- Mr. Richard Bellin – Director of External Audit, Board of Auditors (BOA)
- Mr. Conrod Hunte – Chair, Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

- Moderator: Mr. Mika Tapio – Executive Secretary, JIU

Panelists

Ms. Fatoumata Ndiaye - Under-Secretary-General, Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) – Panel Member

- Ms. Fatoumata Ndiaye of Senegal was appointed in October 2019 as Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services and Head of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). OIOS assists the United Nations Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities over the staff and resources of the United Nations by conducting independent internal audits, inspections and evaluations, and investigations.
- Ms. Ndiaye joined the United Nations in 1995 and has extensive knowledge in United Nations oversight, including in the areas of audit, investigations, and evaluation, having served as Director of the Internal Audit Division in OIOS, and Director of Internal Audit and Investigations in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). She also has hands-on experience in management and operations, having served as Deputy Executive Director (Management) of UNICEF immediately prior to leading OIOS.

Panelists

Mr. Richard Bellin – Director of External Audit, Board of Auditors (BOA) – Panel Member

- Richard Bellin is currently Director of the External Audit for France at the United Nations Board of Auditors in New York, where he leads the French audit team and chairs the Board's Audit Operations Committee. In this capacity, he oversees audit strategy and reporting on the financial statements and performance of major UN entities, including peacekeeping operations, UNDP, UNHCR, and OHCHR, among others.
- A senior auditor at the French Court of Accounts, Mr. Bellin brings over two decades of experience in public sector auditing, governance, and international oversight. He has held several leadership roles in auditing international organizations, notably serving as Director of audits of international organisations in Paris, where he defined France's external audit strategy and represented the Court in key multilateral audit fora, including the UN Panel of External Auditors.
- Between 2016 and 2022, he served as Director of the external audit of the World Food Programme in Rome, where he supervised comprehensive audits covering financial, performance, and compliance aspects across headquarters and field operations, while engaging directly with Member States and governing bodies.
- Earlier in his career, Mr. Bellin held senior audit and management roles across a wide range of institutions, including the World Trade Organization and the International Criminal Court, and contributed to audit standard-setting and advisory bodies such as INTOSAI and the IPSAS governance review process.
- A graduate of France's École Nationale d'Administration, he combines deep technical expertise with extensive field and leadership experience, making him a recognized authority on independent oversight mechanisms, accountability, and audit in the UN system.

Panelists

Mr. Conrod Hunte – Chair, Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) – Panel Member

- Inspector Conrod C. Hunte (Antigua and Barbuda) brings over four decades of experience in international diplomacy, governance, and oversight within the United Nations system. Since joining the diplomatic service in 1982, he has held a wide range of senior roles, including serving as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations.
- Inspector Hunte had been a longstanding member of the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) from 2013 to 2021, where he also served as Vice-Chair. In this capacity, he has contributed significantly to strengthening accountability, financial oversight, and efficiency across the UN system. His work spans budget scrutiny, programme evaluation, and the advancement of effective resource management practices - core pillars of independent oversight.
- He has also played key leadership roles in international governance processes, including chairing budget committees at major global conferences and coordinating negotiations within the Group of 77 and China. His expertise extends to sustainable development, environmental governance, and multilateral financing, reflecting a broad and integrated understanding of institutional oversight.
- Inspector Hunte combines deep technical knowledge of UN processes with practical experience in programme implementation, project evaluation, and human resource management. His longstanding commitment to transparency, accountability, and institutional effectiveness makes him a respected voice on strengthening independent oversight mechanisms in international organizations.

Moderator

Mr. Mika Tapio – Executive Secretary, JIU

- Mika Tapio is the Executive Secretary of the Joint Inspection Unit, a position he has held since 2025. With over 30 years of experience in audit and oversight - 26 of those within the United Nations system - he brings extensive expertise in strengthening accountability and governance across international organizations.
- Prior to his current role, Mr. Tapio served as Inspector General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations from 2020 to 2025, where he led the organization's internal audit and investigation functions.
- His career within the UN system has been marked by progressively senior leadership roles in internal oversight. At the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services, he held several key positions, including Chief of the UNHCR Audit Service and Chief of the European Audit Section, overseeing audit operations and managing large multinational teams across diverse field environments.
- Mr. Tapio began his professional career with Deloitte & Touche and has since developed a broad and deep technical foundation, supported by multiple professional certifications, including Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Chartered Certified Accountant.
- A Finnish national, he holds a Master of Science in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business in Austria. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for his leadership in advancing independent oversight within the UN system.

Discussion Structure

- Q1 – What is oversight and why does it matter?
- Q2 – How is the oversight architecture structured?
- Q3 – How do oversight bodies coordinate?
- Q4 – How is oversight independence ensured?
- Q5 – Future of oversight and UN80



Q1 – What is oversight and why does it matter?

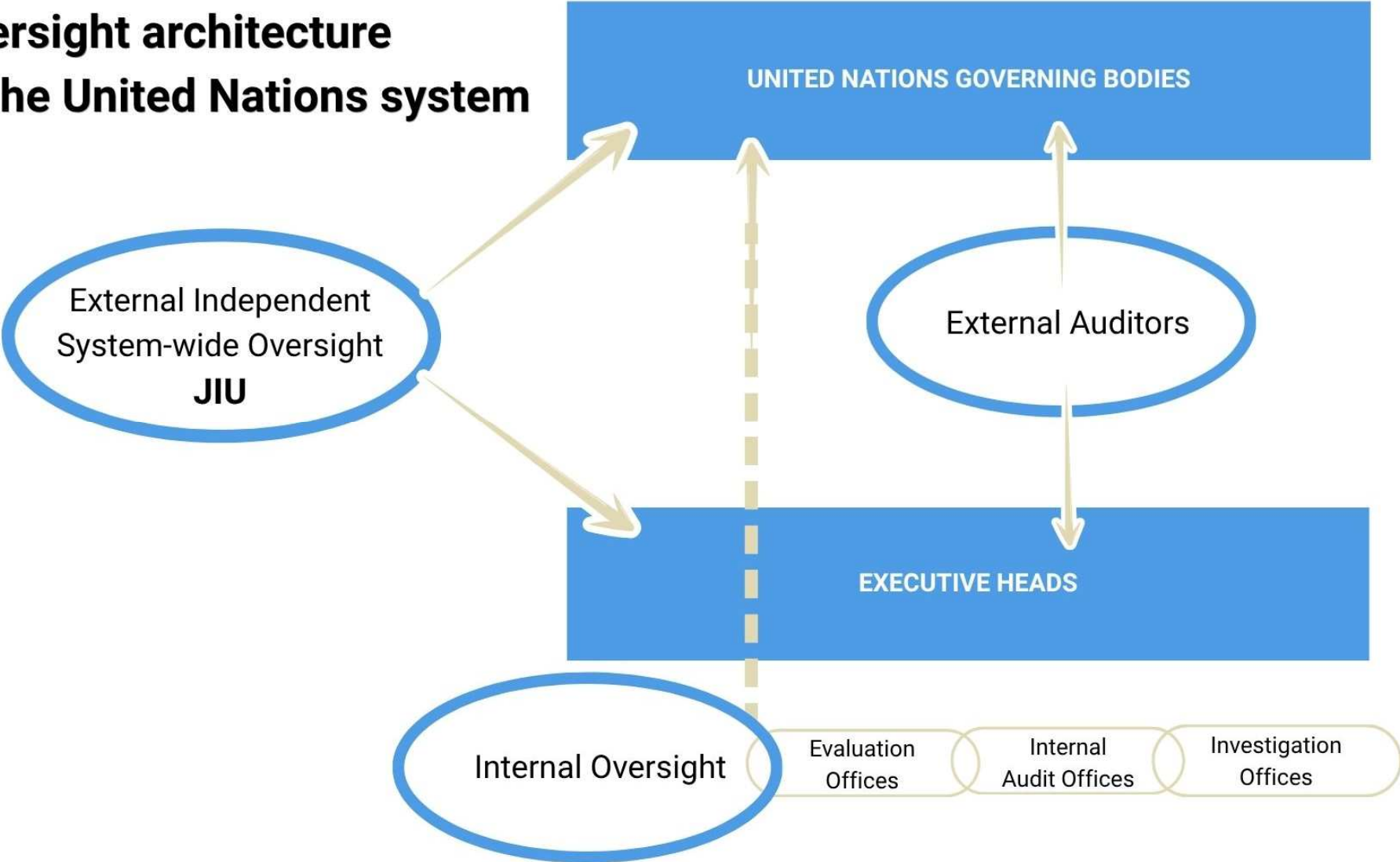


Q2 – How is the oversight architecture structured?

UN Oversight Architecture

- OIOS – Internal oversight: audit, evaluation and investigation
- BOA – External audit and financial assurance to Member States
- JIU – Independent system-wide oversight and cross-cutting reviews
- Complementary functions contributing to accountability, learning and trust

Oversight architecture of the United Nations system





Q3 – How do oversight bodies coordinate?



Q4 – How is oversight independence ensured?



Q5 – Future of oversight and UN80

Audience Q&A

- Oral question in the first 10 minutes of the Q&A segment
- Questions to be submitted through the Teams Q&A function
- Questions grouped by theme where possible

Key Messages

- Independent oversight is essential to credibility and trust
- Oversight bodies are complementary, not duplicative
- Oversight is also about learning, improvement and informed decision-making
- Impact depends on Member State engagement and follow-up

Thank you



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