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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Status of internal evaluation in organizations of the the United Nations system

Third report on evaluation in the United Nations system: integration and use

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Status of internal evaluation in organizations of the United Nations system" (A/41/201) and "Third report on evaluation in the United Nations system: integration and use" (A/41/202).

* A/41/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled
"Status of internal evaluation in organizations of the
United Nations system" (JIU/REP/85/10) and "Third report
on evaluation in the United Nations system: integration
and use" (JIU/REP/85/11)

1. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination welcomes the reports entitled "Status of internal evaluation in organizations of the United Nations system" (A/41/201) and "Third report on evaluation in the United Nations system: integration and use" (A/41/202), prepared by Inspector Earl D. Sohm, which it is convinced will follow earlier reports issued in 1977 and 1981 in making a valuable contribution to the development of the evaluation process in the United Nations system. The Committee considers that the comprehensive assessment by the Joint Inspection Unit of the various evaluation experiences, the incisive analysis of particular problems and the clarity and balance of the recommendations constitute a definite basis for further overall improvement of the evaluation process within the system. It also considers that, taken as a whole, the two reports provide a sound basis for the further strengthening of specific evaluation systems and activities in the various parts of the United Nations system.
2. The Committee appreciates the recognition given in the reports to positive developments in individual organizations; it also takes serious note of the many identified needs that remain to be met. Particularly, the Committee shares the Unit's concern that emphasis has not sufficiently shifted from programme inputs to programme results; responsibilities and actions for design improvement remain unclear; training to build staff understanding and capabilities on an organization-wide basis is still relatively weak in most organizations and full integration of evaluation with the overall management process, including timely and effective feedback of relevant information on performance, remains to be achieved. It is also concerned about the fact that the capacity of central evaluation units is generally small in relation to workloads.
3. Against the background of these needs, the Committee considers the Unit's recommendations, particularly those contained in the second report (paras. 158-164), to be very timely and relevant. The Committee will make efforts system-wide to integrate evaluation further along the lines suggested in Recommendation 1 and to improve its quality as mentioned in Recommendation 2 with a view to maximizing the relevance and usefulness of evaluation for decision-making. Efforts will also be continued to share evaluation experiences, and to simplify and harmonize evaluation approaches to the extent possible.
4. The Committee fully recognizes the need for co-operative efforts to support Governments in developing their evaluation capacity as suggested in Recommendation 3. While few organizations have financial resources for this purpose, some have provided training workshops in the field in conjunction with project-financed in-depth evaluation exercises. In a few cases, the workshops have

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been directly financed. Evaluation capacity can also be enhanced by taking measures to facilitate full representation by Governments in tripartite in-depth evaluations. Beyond capacity-building are practical considerations that generally come with the representation of Government in the exercise: easier access to information and to decision-makers; more intimate awareness of problems that affect local implementation as well as those that affect the international system. The Committee is also in favour of a continuous exchange of information among units and individuals concerned with evaluation.

5. At the same time, the Committee is of the view that effective implementation of the recommendations depends on an adequate level of necessary resources.
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