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| **Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources Fifteenth meeting – 11 and 12 January 2022** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-FHR-15/2** |
| **19 November 2021** |
| **English only** |
| Contribution by the Secretariat | |
| JIU Reports on United Nations system-wide issues for 2020-2021 and recommendations to executive heads and legislative bodies | |

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| **Summary**  This document covers the latest available Joint Inspection Unit’s reports from the 2020 and 2021 programme of work published this year, as listed in Table 1.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group is invited to take note of the overall status of acceptance and implementation of recommendations of JIU system-wide reports addressed to ITU and provide guidance on the recommendations addressed to the Legislative Bodies (full set of recommendations and links to the reports, as well as to Chief Executive Board comments, where available, are presented in Table 2).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [JIU Reports 2019-2020](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGFHR12-C-0006/en) |

**2020- 2021 JIU UN SYSTEM-WIDE REPORTS**

**ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS**

**Table 1**

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| **REPORT NUMBER** | **REPORT TITLE** | **ITU FOCAL POINT** |
| JIU/REP/2021/3 | [Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations](#cyber) | Mr. Anders Norsker (GS/IS) and Mr. Preetam Maloor (GS/SPM) |
| JIU/REP/2021/2 | [Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action](#landlocked) | Mr. Cosmas Zavazava (BDT) |
| JIU/REP/2020/8 | [Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system](#enviornment) | Ms. Robin Zuercher (SPD/GS) |
| JIU/REP/2020/7 | [Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness](#blockchain) | Mr. Martin Adolph (TSB) |

**Table 2**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **JIU/REP/2021/3** [**Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations**](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2021_3_english.pdf)  - **ITU Focal Point: Anders Norsker and Preetam Maloor**   * [**Review Highlights**](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2021_3_review_highlights_0.pdf) | | | | | | | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Acceptance recommendation** | | | | **Implementation Status** | | | **CEB comments NOT YET AVAILABLE -**  **ITU Comments**  **(if any) below** |
| **Executive Heads** | **Legislative/Governing bodies** | Accept | Not Accept | Not Relevant | Requires further consideration | Not Started | In progress | Implemented |  |
| **Recommendation 1:** The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should prepare, as a matter of priority and no later than 2022, a comprehensive report on their cybersecurity framework and present it to their respective legislative and governing bodies at the earliest opportunity, covering the elements contributing to improved cyber resilience examined in the present report. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  | In the workplan for 2022 onward |
| **Recommendation 2:** The legislative and governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should consider the reports on the elements contributing to improved cyber resilience prepared by the executive heads and provide strategic guidance on further improvements to be implemented in their respective organizations, as necessary. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  | In the workplan for 2022 onward |
| **JIU/REP/2021/2** [**Review of United Nations system support for landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action**](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2021_2_english.pdf)  **- ITU Focal Point: Cosmas Zavazava**   * [**Review Highlights**](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/review_highlights_and_complementary_paper_jiu_rep_2021_2.pdf) | | | | | | | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Acceptance recommendation** | | | | **Implementation Status** | | | **CEB comments NOT YET AVAILABLE -**  **ITU Comments**  **(if any) below** |
| **Executive Heads** | **Legislative/Governing bodies** | Accept | Not Accept | Not Relevant | Requires further consideration | Not Started | In progress | Implemented |  |
| **Recommendation 1:** The executive heads of United Nations system organizations should designate, if theyhave not already done so, by the end of 2022, an organizational focal point onlandlocked developing countries with clear terms of reference, developed withguidance from UN-OHRLLS, that define the focal point’s role and responsibilities in supporting implementation of the programme of action for landlocked developingcountries. | | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Recommendation 3:** The executive heads of United Nations system organizations should develop, by the end of 2022, a clear results framework for support for landlocked developing countries, including linkages among the outcomes to be achieved, the main outputs strategy and core activities. | | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Recommendation 7:** The legislative organs and governing bodies of United Nations system organizations should issue directives, if they have not already done so, by the end of 2022, for their organizations to mainstream the priorities of the programme of action for landlocked developing countries that are pertinent to their mandated work and request that their organizations report periodically on its implementation. | | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **JIU/REP/2020/8** [Review of mainstreaming environmental sustainability across organizations of the United Nations system](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2020_8_english.pdf)  **ITU Focal Point: Robin Zuercher**   * [**Review Highlights**](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/review_highlights_jiu_rep_2020_8.pdf) | | | | | | | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Acceptance recommendation** | | | | **Implementation Status** | | | [**CEB comments**](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/a_76_286_add.1_english.pdf) **-**  **ITU Comments**  **(if any) below** |
| **Executive Heads** | **Legislative/Governing bodies** | Accept | Not Accept | Not Relevant | Requires further consideration | Not Started | In progress | Implemented |  |
| **Recommendation 1:** The executive heads of United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should, by the end of 2022, develop an organization-wide policy for environmental sustainability in the areas of internal management functions. | | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Recommendation 2**: The legislative organs and governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should, by the end of 2022, direct the executive heads to embed environmental sustainability considerations into the management of their organizations and request them to include in the annual report on the work of the organization the results of efforts to mainstream environmental sustainability in the internal management functions of the organization. | | **X** |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Recommendation 3**: The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, devote adequate resources in specific budget plans, including by better utilizing existing available resources, to mainstreaming environmental sustainability in their respective organizations, and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023. | | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| **Recommendation 4**: The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should, by the end of 2022, task procurement offices with incorporating specific provisions for integrating environmental sustainability considerations into procurement policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines, including through the relevant inter-agency mechanisms, as necessary. | | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  | UN inter-agency mechanisms should facilitate exchange of and access to materials, best practices and trainings from  front runners and subject-matter expert agencies.  Procurement activities /policies should for example also integrate environmental performance considerations of ICT  equipment, from planning and buying, to use and maintenance to disposal of e-waste (also related to  Recommendation 9).  ITU is working on the following:  - Procurement criteria for sustainable data centres (Recommendation ITU-T L.1304) and other recommendations  relevant for green procurement  - Procurement practices for smart sustainable cities which will also deal with e-waste |
| **Recommendation 5:** The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, ensure that all recruitment and selection processes, as well as performance appraisal systems, incorporate and give adequate weight to environmental sustainability understanding and behaviours, and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023 | | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  | ITU would welcome a UN wide HR sustainability strategy |
| **Recommendation 6:** The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, with the support of the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country team mechanisms, strengthen the coordination between the headquarters and field agencies, as well as among field agencies, in pursuing measures to reduce the environmental impact of field presences, and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 7:** The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, make all conferences, events and meetings organized by their respective organizations “paper smart”, while providing printed material only upon official request and with adequate cost recovery measures following a differential pricing system in respect of different customer groups – such as official delegates, research institutions, other conference participants and students – and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023. | |  |  |  |  |  |  | **X** | Although ITU strives to be a paperless organisation, a major issue regarding fully paperless events derives from interpretation as the quality of the service might be impacted. A joint approach by UN organizations would be welcome  to work with AIIC (Agency for interpreters) in order to find paper-smart/paperless solutions for interpretation services. |
| **Recommendation 8:** The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should, by the end of 2022, task the relevant offices responsible for organizing conferences, meetings and events with developing a policy for incorporating provisions relating to environmental sustainability considerations into policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines, including through the relevant inter-agency mechanisms, as necessary. | |  |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| **Recommendation 9** The executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system should ensure that, by the end of 2022, information and communications technology services’ actions and projects comply with environmental sustainability considerations, including ensuring that greenhouse gas emissions are at a level compatible with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris agreement. | | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  | ITU could support other agencies with reaching this recommendation for example by using ITU standards and best  practices (e.g. Recommendation ITU-T L.1470, L.1304, L.1310, etc), as well as by working with SUN and/or REACT to  develop procurement guidelines and policies for ICT equipment to help UN bodies to integrate environmental  performance considerations into procurement activities, from planning and buying, to use and maintenance to disposal.  The targets set by the ITU Connect 2030 Agenda could also be incorporated in UN guidelines, along with the Paris  Agreement. |
| **Recommendation 10:** The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should, by the end of 2022, make all official documentation, publications, brochures, and communication and advocacy materials available online, including through online conferencing applications or other information technology means, and report on the implementation to their legislative organs and governing bodies from 2023. | | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| **JIU/REP/2020/7** [Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2020_7_english.pdf)  **ITU Focal Point: Martin Adolph**   * [**Review Highlights**](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/review_highlights_jiu_rep_2020_7.pdf) | | | | | | | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Acceptance recommendation** | | | | **Implementation Status** | | | [**CEB comments**](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/a_76_325_add.1_english.pdf) **-**  **ITU Comments**  **(if any) below** |
| **Executive Heads** | **Legislative/Governing bodies** | Accept | Not Accept | Not Relevant | Requires further consideration | Not Started | In progress | Implemented |  |
| **Recommendation 1:** The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should ensure that, when applicable, the use of blockchain applications will be integrated, together with other digital technologies, into the innovation strategies and policies adopted by their respective organizations. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 2:** The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should make sure that the examination of possible blockchain use cases will be based on assessments of project risks, including with respect to relevant organizational policies and regulations on privileges and immunities, data protection, confidentiality, cybersecurity, system integrity, and reputation. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 3**: The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations, if they have not already done so, should endorse the Principles for Digital Development by the end of 2022, as a first step to ensuring a general common understanding of digital transformation at the organizational level, including the possible use of blockchains. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 4**: The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations should ensure that any decision on using blockchain should be based on an appropriate determination of the business case and of the most suitable solution, using as guidance a decision making matrix (as described in the present report, as well as any enhancements and/or adaptations). | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 5:** The Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the United Nations system organizations, with support from the International Telecommunication Union, should assign, by the end of 2021, to a United Nations representative in charge of digital technologies and related issues, the task of following the development of blockchain interoperability standards and open-source projects aimed at blockchain interoperability, as part of an overall consideration of the policy implications of the technology, and to work with all organizations accordingly. | | For information only. Recommendation is addressed to the UN Secretary-  General | | | | | | | ITU is offering its support for the implementation of this recommendation. ITU looks forward to collaborating with the United Nations representative in charge of digital technologies on efforts related to blockchain interoperability. |
| **Recommendation 6**: The governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations should encourage Member States to engage with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in its exploratory and preparatory work on legal issues that relate to blockchain in the broader context of the digital economy and digital trade, including on dispute resolution, which is aimed at reducing legal insecurity in that field. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 7:** The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations that have developed blockchain applications - in line with the call by the Secretary-General in his Roadmap for Digital Cooperation for the United Nations to deploy digital public goods – should follow, whenever possible, open-source principles when they develop software, and make available the codes to other United Nations organizations. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **Recommendation 8**: The executive heads of the United Nations system organizations, through the relevant coordination mechanisms, including with support from the United Nations International Computing Centre, should consider the adoption of a non-binding interagency blockchain governance framework for use by interested organizations, with a view to ensuring coherent and consistent blockchain approaches across the system by the end of 2022, including for projects that may involve multiple United Nations organizations. | | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |

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