

**REVIEW OF THE ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF JIU RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations has repeatedly noted the importance of enhancing the effectiveness of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and its follow-up system and has reaffirmed that the effectiveness of the JIU is a shared responsibility of the Unit, member States, and the secretariats of the participating organizations.¹

2. In its resolution 54/16, the General Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Unit to establish a system for the handling of JIU reports and recommendations by its participating organizations. The proposal, entitled “Towards a more effective system of follow-up on reports of the Joint Inspection Unit”, was attached as an annex to the Unit’s annual report for 1997.² Subsequently, the Unit undertook negotiations on specific follow-up agreements with the secretariats of its participating organizations, which were ratified by their respective governing bodies between 2000 and 2005. In the case of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as its secretariat is part of the United Nations Secretariat and its Governing Council is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly, it is bounded by resolution 54/16 which endorsed the follow-up system.

3. In 1998, the Unit started tracking the action taken by legislative bodies on JIU recommendations. That tracking system evolved over the years into and a web-based tracking system (WBTS), which was introduced in 2012. The WBTS serves as an online platform allowing participating organizations to access and update the status of consideration of JIU reports and the acceptance and implementation of recommendations. The General Assembly in its resolution 69/275 requested the heads of participating organizations to make full use of the web-based tracking system and to provide an in-depth analysis of how the recommendations of the Unit are being implemented.³

4. The Unit is committed to further enhancing the effectiveness of its follow-up system and therefore decided to include in its programme of work for 2015 a review of the acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations by its participating organizations for the period 2006-2012. The most recent years have been excluded from the analysis since it takes some time for reports to be considered by legislative bodies and for recommendations to be implemented by management. Prior to 2006, all recommendations had been closed and their acceptance/implementation was no longer tracked.

5. The review will be conducted in two phases. The objectives of the first phase are to review:

- The acceptance and implementation of recommendations by JIU participating organizations, based on the statistics provided in the WBTS, to prompt action to clear recommendations outstanding for five years or more; and
- The process of consideration of JIU reports by the legislative bodies of organizations in order to identify shortcomings and delays.

6. A questionnaire on the process of handling JIU reports, notes and management letters was sent to the JIU focal points at each organization. No response was received from UN-Habitat, despite several reminders.

7. The results of the first phase of the review are being presented in a series of management letters addressed to executive heads of participating organizations. The second phase will identify good follow-up practices at organizations and draw lessons to enhance the follow-up process.

8. The present management letter, which is addressed for action to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat includes:

¹ General Assembly resolutions 50/233, 54/16, 62/246, 63/272, 64/262, 65/270, 66/259, 68/266 and 69/275.

² A/52/34.

³ OP.15.

- A comparison of the acceptance and implementation rates for the period 2006-2012 in order to position UN-Habitat within the spectrum of JIU participating organizations;
- A trend analysis of the acceptance and implementation rates at UN-Habitat for the period 2006-2012; and
- A review of recommendations formulated during the period 2006-2009 still outstanding without any explanation, the acceptance of which is “not available” or “under consideration”, and/or the implementation of which is “in progress”, “not started” or “not available”.

9. The intended analysis of the process of handling JIU reports by UN-Habitat could not be carried out, since the organization did not respond to the relevant JIU questionnaire.

10. Comments on the draft management letter were sought from UN-Habitat management but were not received despite several reminders. In accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the JIU statute, the present management letter was finalized after consultation among the Inspectors so as to test its conclusions and recommendations against the collective wisdom of the Unit.

II. ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Low rates of acceptance and implementation of recommendations

11. As shown in the table below, at the time this review was initiated in February 2015, UN-Habitat ranked 26th in the acceptance and 22nd in the implementation of JIU recommendations among all participating organizations and entities considered in the review for the period 2006-2012. UN-Habitat's acceptance and implementation rates were well below the average of all organizations, among the lowest rates (see annex I for more details). **The Inspector invites UN-Habitat management to provide an explanation for these low rates of acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations by 31 July 2016.**

Table 1
Rates of acceptance and implementation (2006-2012)*

	UN-Habitat	All organizations
Number of recommendations	255	7692**
Number of accepted recommendations	49	5000**
Number of implemented recommendations	30	4020**
Rate of acceptance	19.2%	65%
Rate of implementation	61.2%	80.4%

*As of February 2015.

** Number of recommendations multiplied by the number of organizations concerned, to which recommendations are addressed for action.

B. Decreasing trend of acceptance and implementation

12. It can be further noted that both the rates of acceptance and implementation of recommendations decreased over the period to reach 0 per cent in 2010, when UN-Habitat stopped its reporting to JIU, as shown in the table below (see annex II for more details). **The Inspector requests an explanation for this not reporting by 30 July 2016.**

Table 2
Trend of acceptance and implementation (2006-2012)*

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of recommendations	20	17	41	36	45	58	38
Rate of acceptance	25%	100.0%	43.9%	25%	0%	0%	0%
Rate of implementation	60%	94.1%	55.6%	11.1%	0%	0%	0%

*As of February 2015.

C. Rates of acceptance and implementation of recommendations addressed to executive heads and legislative bodies

13. Unlike most participating organizations, there was no significant difference between the UN-Habitat's rates of acceptance and implementation of recommendations addressed for action to the executive head during the period 2006-2012 and the rates of acceptance and implementation of recommendations addressed for action to the legislative body. In principle, recommendations

addressed to executive heads are more easily accepted and implemented since they do not entail significant policy changes or costs requiring the approval of member States.

Table 3

Rates of acceptance and implementation by addressee (2006-2012)*

	UN-Habitat executive head	UN-Habitat legislative body
Rate of acceptance	19.5%	18.6%
Rate of implementation	61.1%	61.5%

*As of August 2015.

D. “Not relevant” recommendations

14. As of February 2015, UN-Habitat had a high percentage of recommendations reported as “not relevant” (20.8 per cent), above the average of all organizations during the period 2006-2012 (for more details see annex III). **The Inspector would appreciate receiving the reasons for such a high proportion of non-relevant recommendations. The Inspector invites UN-Habitat management to clearly indicate the non-relevance of recommendations at the time the draft report is received for comments, requesting that the recommendations are reflected as for information only in the annex to the JIU reports entitled “Overview of actions to be taken by participating organizations on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit”.**

E. Long-outstanding recommendations for five years or more

15. A review of 114 recommendations in 17 JIU reports and notes addressed for action to UN-Habitat during the period 2006-2009 showed that, at the beginning of February 2016, there were 31 outstanding recommendations for five years or more (27 per cent), for which action should have already been taken by UN-Habitat (see annex IV).

16. Most recommendations were pending implementation (61 per cent) by the UN-Habitat secretariat. Action by UN-Habitat is required to clear these long-outstanding recommendations, as applicable. Five years or more after being sent for action no recommendation should appear as acceptance “not available”, implementation “in progress”, “not available” or “not started”. They should be either accepted or rejected and their implementation of those accepted for the most completed.

Recommendation 1

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat should ensure that action is taken to clear the backlog of long outstanding recommendations, as accounted in the WBTS and report to JIU by 31 July 2016.

F. WBTS not used

17. UN-Habitat has not used the WBTS since its inception in 2012. Therefore, the rates shown in the system for the Organization reflect the status of acceptance and implementation of recommendations at the end of 2011.

18. Prior to 2012, participating organizations reported to the JIU the status of recommendations at the year-end and the data was entered manually into the old system. When the WBTS was introduced, existing data was migrated from the old to the new system and the JIU participating organizations initiated their own reporting online. Training and help desk functions were made available to all users. Yet, unlike most participating organizations, UN-Habitat did not subscribe to the new system. The Inspector requests UN-Habitat management to resume reporting in line with the relevant provisions of article 11(f) of the JIU statute and resolution 54/16 of the United Nations General Assembly, applicable to the Organization. The JIU secretariat stands ready to provide the necessary training.

Recommendation 2

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat should ensure that the Organization resumes its reporting on the acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations, in line with the provisions of article 11(f) of the JIU statute and resolution 54/16 of the United Nations General Assembly by 31 December 2016.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS BY UN-HABITAT LEGISLATIVE BODY

19. According to our records, 21 reports were sent to UN-Habitat for action during the period 2010-2012; none of them was considered by UN-Habitat Governing Council. The JIU could not review the process of handling of its reports since the Organization did not respond to the Unit's questionnaire. The Inspector requests UN-Habitat management to provide the requested information.

Recommendation 3

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat should ensure that information on the process of handling JIU reports by the Organization is provided to the JIU not later than 31 July 2016.

20. We would appreciate receiving a response to this management letter and its recommendations by 31 July 2016.

Annex I

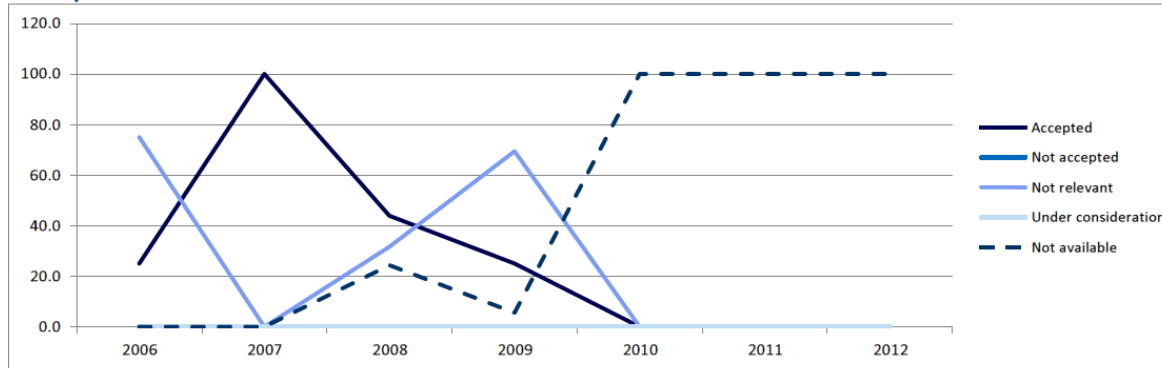
Rates of acceptance and implementation by Organization (2006-2012), as of February 2015

	<i>(percentage)</i>		<i>(percentage)</i>
	<i>Accepted</i>		<i>Implemented</i>
FAO	93.7	OHCHR	100.0
UNRWA	91.2	FAO	97.3
WFP	89.6	ICAO	94.1
UNHCR	86.2	WFP	93.4
UNFPA	85.7	WMO	92.8
WHO	83.6	UNIDO	92.6
UNIDO	82.9	UNESCO	90.4
UNDP	82.3	UNHCR	89.2
UNESCO	81.9	WHO	88.3
UNOPS	81.0	UNEP	86.7
ICAO	80.8	UNCTAD	86.6
UNICEF	80.4	UNRWA	82.4
UNEP	78.7	UNOPS	82.0
UNAIDS	77.8	ILO	80.5
IMO	72.8	All organizations	80.4
ILO	68.2	UNFPA	80.1
UN	67.0	WIPO	78.2
All organizations	65.0	UNWTO	73.7
WMO	63.9	UN	69.8
WIPO	56.3	UNDP	69.5
ITU	47.4	UNICEF	66.3
OHCHR	38.5	IAEA	61.3
IAEA	35.3	UN-Habitat	61.2
UNCTAD	32.8	UNODC	57.9
UPU	25.7	IMO	57.2
UNODC	22.4	UNAIDS	51.4
UN-Habitat	19.2	ITC	50.0
ITC	18.2	UPU	46.8
UNWTO	6.3	ITU	46.2
CEB	0.0	CEB	0.0
UN-WOMEN	0.0	UN-WOMEN	0.0

Annex II

UN-Habitat's trend of acceptance and implementation of JIU recommendations (2006-2012), as of February 2015

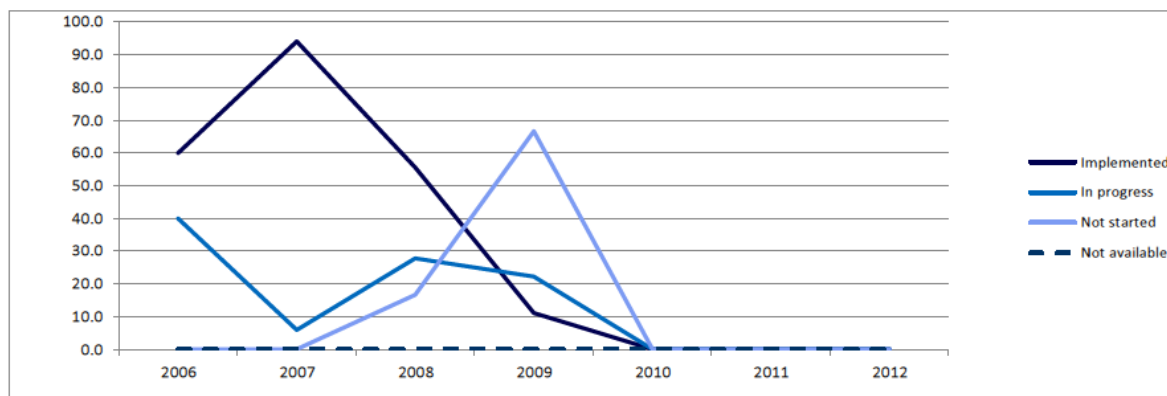
Acceptance



%	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Accepted	25.0	100.0	43.9	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not accepted	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not relevant	75.0	0.0	31.7	69.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Under consideration	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not available	0.0	0.0	24.4	5.6	100.0	100.0	100.0

Values	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Accepted	5	17	18	9	0	0	0
Not accepted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not relevant	15	0	13	25	0	0	0
Under consideration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not available	0	0	10	2	45	58	38

Implementation



%	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Implemented	60.0	94.1	55.6	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
In progress	40.0	5.9	27.8	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not started	0.0	0.0	16.7	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not available	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Values	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Implemented	3	16	10	1	0	0	0
In progress	2	1	5	2	0	0	0
Not started	0	0	3	6	0	0	0
Not available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Annex III
“Not relevant” recommendations (2006-2012),
as of February 2015

	<i>(percentage)</i>
	<i>Not relevant</i>
UNCTAD	65.2
OHCHR	53.9
UNODC	39.4
WMO	26.4
UN-Habitat	20.8
ILO	15.4
WIPO	15.0
UNEP	14.2
IMO	12.7
All organizations	12.0
UNOPS	11.7
ICAO	11.0
UNFPA	10.6
ITU	10.1
UPU	9.3
UNESCO	8.8
IAEA	8.3
UNHCR	8.0
UNIDO	7.4
UNDP	7.1
UNAIDS	6.7
UN	6.1
WFP	5.4
UNICEF	5.0
UNRWA	5.0
WHO	4.6
FAO	1.9
CEB	0.0
ITC	0.0
UN-WOMEN	0.0
UNWTO	0

Annex IV

**UN-Habitat long-outstanding recommendations for five years or more (2006-2009),
as of February 2016**

Report/note/ML	Recommendation No.	Status
JIU/REP/2006/4	1	Implementation: In Progress
	5	Implementation: In Progress
JIU/REP/2007/1	4	Implementation: In Progress
JIU/NOTE/2008/1	1	Acceptance: Not available
	2	Acceptance: Not available
	5	Acceptance: Not available
	6	Acceptance: Not available
	7	Acceptance: Not available
JIU/NOTE/2008/4	3	Acceptance: Not available
	14	Acceptance: Not available
	16	Acceptance: Not available
	17	Acceptance: Not available
	19	Acceptance: Not available
JIU/REP/2008/4	3	Implementation: In Progress
	8	Implementation: In Progress
	9	Implementation: In Progress
	11	Implementation: In Progress
JIU/REP/2008/6	4	Implementation: In Progress
	6	Implementation: Not started
	7	Implementation: Not started
	8	Implementation: Not started
JIU/REP/2009/1	1	Acceptance: Not available
	3	Acceptance: Not available
JIU/REP/2009/5	2	Implementation: Not started
	3	Implementation: Not started
	7	Implementation: Not started
	10	Implementation: Not started
	11	Implementation: Not started
	14	Implementation: In Progress
	15	Implementation: In Progress

16

Implementation: Not started

Total outstanding recommendations

31