

"(d) That the internal controls, including the internal audit, are adequate in the light of the extent of reliance placed thereupon;

"(e) That procedures satisfactory to the Board of Auditors have been applied to the recording of all assets, liabilities, surpluses and deficits.

"2. The Board of Auditors shall be the sole judge as to the acceptance in whole or in part of certifications and representations by the Secretary-General and may proceed to such detailed examination and verification as it chooses of all financial records, including those relating to supplies and equipment.

"3. The Board of Auditors and its staff shall have free access at all convenient times to all books, records and other documentation which are, in the opinion of the Board of Auditors, necessary for the performance of the audit. Information which is classified as privileged and which the Secretary-General (or his designated senior official) agrees is required by the Board for the purposes of the audit and information classified as confidential shall be made available on application. The Board of Auditors and its staff shall respect the privileged and confidential nature of any information so classified which has been made available and shall not make use of it except in direct connexion with the performance of the audit. The Board may draw the attention of the General Assembly to any denial of information classified as privileged which, in its opinion, was required for the purpose of the audit.

"4. The Board of Auditors shall have no power to disallow items in the accounts but shall draw to the attention of the Secretary-General for appropriate action any transaction concerning which it entertains doubt as to legality or propriety. Audit objections, to these or any other transactions, arising during the examination of the accounts shall be communicated immediately to the Secretary-General.

"5. The Board of Auditors (or such of its officers as it may designate) shall express and sign an opinion in the following terms:

"We have examined the following appended financial statements, numbered ..... to ....., properly identified, and relevant schedules of ..... [name of the body] for the year ended 31 December 19..... Our examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of the accounting records and other supporting evidence as we considered necessary in the circumstances. As a result of our examination, we are of the opinion that the financial statements properly reflect the recorded financial transactions for the year, which transactions were in accordance with the Financial Regulations and legislative authority, and present fairly the financial position as at ..... 19....",

adding, should it be necessary:

"subject to the observations in our foregoing report".

"6. The report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements should mention:

"(a) The type and scope of its examination;

"(b) Matters affecting the completeness or accuracy of the accounts, including where appropriate:

"(i) Information necessary to the correct interpretation of the accounts;

"(ii) Any amounts which ought to have been received but which have not been brought to account;

"(iii) Any amounts for which a legal or contingent obligation exists and which have not been recorded or reflected in the financial statements;

"(iv) Expenditures not properly substantiated;

"(v) Whether proper books of accounts have been kept—where in the presentation of statements there are deviations of a material nature from the generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis, these should be disclosed;

"(c) Other matters which should be brought to the notice of the General Assembly, such as:

"(i) Cases of fraud or presumptive fraud;

"(ii) Wasteful or improper expenditure of the Organization's money or other assets (notwithstanding that the accounting for the transaction may be correct);

"(iii) Expenditure likely to commit the Organization to further outlay on a large scale;

"(iv) Any defect in the general system or detailed regulations governing the control of receipts and disbursements or of supplies and equipment;

"(v) Expenditure not in accordance with the intention of the General Assembly after making allowance for duly authorized transfers within the budget;

"(vi) Expenditure in excess of appropriations as amended by duly authorized transfers within the budget;

"(vii) Expenditure not in conformity with the authority which governs it;

"(d) The accuracy or otherwise of the supplies and equipment records as determined by stock-taking and examination of the records;

"(e) If appropriate, transactions accounted for in a previous year concerning which further information has been obtained or transactions in a later year concerning which it seems desirable that the General Assembly should have early knowledge.

"7. The Board of Auditors may make such observations with respect to its findings resulting from the audit and such comments on the Secretary-General's financial report as it deems appropriate to the General Assembly or to the Secretary-General.

"8. Whenever the scope of audit of the Board of Auditors is restricted, or whenever the Board is unable to obtain sufficient evidence, it shall refer to the matter in its report, making clear the reasons for its comments, and the effect on the financial position and the financial transactions as recorded.

"9. In no case shall the Board of Auditors include criticism in its report without first affording the Secretary-General an adequate opportunity of explanation on the matter under observation."

## 2886 (XXVI). Programme of recurrent publications of the United Nations

### *The General Assembly*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the programme of recurrent publications of the United Nations,<sup>26</sup> and of the preliminary observations thereon by the Secretary-General<sup>27</sup> and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;<sup>28</sup>

2. *Requests* the intergovernmental bodies concerned to consider the specific recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and to transmit their observations, through the Economic and Social Council where appropriate, to the General Assembly in time for consideration at its twenty-seventh session;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to submit their observations and recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

*2030th plenary meeting,  
21 December 1971.*

<sup>26</sup> See A/8362.

<sup>27</sup> See A/8540.

<sup>28</sup> A/8624.