

32. The Committee recalled recommendation 7 of the JIU Report on the *Review of the State of the Investigation Function*, which recommended that: “[t]he legislative bodies of United Nations system organizations that have not yet done so should develop and adopt appropriate formal procedures for the investigation of complaints of misconduct by executive heads and adopt appropriate polices by the end of 2021”.[1]

33. The Committee noted that the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) had not initiated its anticipated “consultative process for a harmonized implementation approach”, and that, therefore, a number of Specialized Agencies have either begun or have now completed work on implementation of the JIU recommendation, in particular to identify an investigating entity.

34. The Committee found no legal impediment to FAO similarly developing and adopting procedures on its own initiative, taking into account the legal framework of the Organization.

35. The Committee invited the Council to request FAO Management to prioritize the development of procedures, taking into account the views of the Finance Committee, and encouraged continued consultation with other Specialized Agencies.

36. The Committee invited the Council to recommend to FAO Management to identify the appropriate legal instruments, as well as any amendments required to existing instruments, to implement the JIU recommendation 7.

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[1] JIU/REP/2020/1. This echoed Recommendation 1 in the earlier JIU report on the “Review of whistle-blower policies and practices in United Nations system organizations” (JIU/REP/2018/4) which recommended that “[l]egislative bodies should adopt measures by 2020 to ensure that all policies related to misconduct/wrongdoing and retaliation specify appropriate channels and modalities, such as independent oversight committees, for reporting and investigating allegations against the executive head of the organization, as well as against any other functions that may entail a potential conflict of interest in the handling of such issues”.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

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