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Statement Before the Fifth Committee

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United States Representative to the Fifth Committee

61st UN General Assembly – Agenda Item # 124: Joint Inspection Unit

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States Delegation welcomes Joint Inspection Unit Chairperson Deborah Wynes to New York and to the Fifth Committee. We thank Ms. Wynes for her introduction of this year's JIU Annual Report as conveyed in document A/60/34. This year's report represents an improvement over similar previous summaries, and we commend Ms. Wynes and her JIU colleagues for presenting us with information increasingly focused on results-based management in the Organization.

This year's overview of the nine reports and two notes completed by JIU in 2005 includes an interesting analysis of participating organizations' acceptance and implementation of previous JIU recommendations. The table presented in paragraph 30 of the JIU report is helpful in this regard, but we hope future such tables will include additional information in each category on identified cost savings, actual savings, number of accepted recommendations, including a percentage acceptance rate, and the implementation status of each recommendation, perhaps listed as "implemented," "in progress," or "not started."

The United States Delegation would welcome clarification as to whether the JIU routinely transmits its reports to the particular participating organization under review, requesting that such entity report back within a defined timeframe on its acceptance or non-acceptance of JIU recommendations and its plans for implementation. We note that this is the practice of other oversight bodies within the UN.

The United States is concerned that the JIU currently is unable to determine the exact level of acceptance of its recommendations by participating organizations when multi-agency reports are involved. We believe the JIU needs to take a more active role in developing a method to provide us with this information.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States would like to know more about the JIU's plans to give the Fifth Committee an earlier opportunity to comment on its proposed annual program of work. An overarching goal of all JIU reviews and recommendations should be to improve UN management and to achieve greater coordination among the various component entities of

the Organization. Given these objectives, the JIU's contributions to the effective functioning of the Organization are not readily apparent in a number of the topics selected for review this year. Therefore, we suggest that in the future the JIU present its program of work to the General Assembly at the earliest possible date each year and submit it separately from the annual report.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States Delegation has a number of additional concerns we hope to raise when this agenda item is reviewed in greater detail during upcoming informal consultations. For now, we again thank JIU Chairperson Wynes for her useful update.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.