

BOARD OF AUDITORS

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**Opening statement to the Fifth Committee
on the United Nations Board of Auditors Report on
the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF)
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020
(A/76/5 Add.16)**

October 2021

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Board of Auditors, it is my privilege to present its report on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (the Fund) for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

Audit Opinion

The Board issued an unqualified audit opinion, confirming that the financial statements of the Fund present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for its benefits as at 31 December 2020 and the changes in net assets available for benefits and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and International Accounting Standard 26.

Key findings

The Board did not identify significant errors, omissions or misstatements from the review of the financial records of the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2020. However, the Board identified scope for improvements in the areas of the census data, cash management, reputational risk, external managers and external advisers.

The Board reviewed the census data used for the consulting actuary to determine the actuarial valuation and observed several data quality issues. Also, the Board observed that the validation process of the reasonableness of the headcounts was time-consuming and required the merging of multiple data sets. In addition, the process was not aimed at detecting every inconsistency in the data. Moreover, the Board noticed that the census data for the valuation of the after-service health insurance of the Fund was extracted from Umoja and subject to review. Nevertheless, it was not possible to identify which reviews were carried out by the Fund or which thresholds had been established for any deviation that may have been found.

During the review of the reputational risk policy and framework of the Fund, the Board noticed that it doesn't establish in detail how a staff member of the Office of Investment Management should proceed when a reputational risk event arose and which mechanisms and criteria should be weighed when taking action on a reputational risk issue before such a risk materializes. Moreover, there was no clear procedure for how the Office measures the

reputational risk of the vendors, external managers, advisers and other third parties on an ongoing basis.

In area of external managers, the Board noted that there was no standardization regarding the requirements established for reporting to the Office of Investment Management. Furthermore, the Office did not provide evidence that it carried out the monthly performance reviews to external managers during 2020, as required by the external manager policy.

Financial Position

As at December 2020, the total assets of the Fund amounted to \$81.79 billion (2019: \$72.29 billion) and the total liabilities amounted to \$0.27 billion (2019: \$0.26 billion). The net assets available for benefits amounted to \$81.51 billion (2019: \$72.03 billion), which represented an increase of \$9.48 billion (13.15 per cent) compared with the increase of \$11.26 billion in 2019. The Fund's assets consist (t)-2 (i)-2 (ng (on ()3u2 (y pe)4(e)-6 (y()3u2 (ys)-0.9 (e)4 (nt)-1 (i)-2 (s)-1 (t r.7 0 Td14bAt2 ((n5 cak3 (2 (e)2 (i)-s)-4. o)ib)-4 aye ntt 2y (e)ie and-1 (t (t)i)-2 (s)-1 (t 27)12 (a-2 (.5(nt) (I