

Independent Evaluation of Governance and Oversight

The Secretary General has established a Steering Committee of eminent persons in order to conduct an independent evaluation of governance and oversight within the United Nations, Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies. The Steering Committee brings together an exceptional group of independent experts in the field of governance and oversight and expertise in international public management from throughout the world. They are responsible for the coordination and supervision of the development and implementation of the entire project reporting directly to the Secretary General. They are:

Mr. Guy Almeida Andrade, Brazil;

Mr. Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, Mauritius;

Professor Shinji Hatta, Japan;

Judge Mervyn King SC, South Africa;

Professor Sir Andrew Likierman, United Kingdom;

Mr. Kamlesh S. Vikamsey, India.

A brief bio of each of the Steering Committee members is attached.

The Steering Committee for this independent evaluation of governance and oversight had its first meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva on Thursday, 16 March. The committee accepted its terms of reference and elected Mervyn King S.C. to the role of Chair of the Steering Committee. This study of governance and oversight was requested by Heads of State in the Summit Outcome Document, and is also a key element within the Secretary General's recent reform proposals, 'Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide'¹.

The independent evaluation seeks to identify how best to strengthen the governance framework of the United Nations system through the application of best practice principles, given its uniqueness and breadth of purpose. The evaluation also seeks to identify best practices and structures of audit and related oversight, and identify the resources and capacity to carry out that important role. The evaluation also includes a more detailed review of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), as part of the United Nations' oversight machinery, including the development of options for the optimal level of independence, organizational structure and resource requirements that meet identified best practices.

The Steering Committee reviewed the terms of reference for the evaluation, and in doing so stressed the need to consider the evaluation within the context of the stakeholders of the United Nations organisations, and the need for transparent accountability. The Steering Committee reconfirmed and stressed the importance of identifying early in the process the general principles of governance and best practices of oversight that may guide the whole United Nations system, and provide the basis for the comparative analysis and subsequent recommendations. These

¹ Secretary General's report A/60/692, 7 March 2006.

principles should be enshrined within a set of guidelines, to be followed by all United Nations organisations on a comply or explain basis. This concept was further discussed with representatives of various UN organisations from the High Level Committee on Management, who were invited to the meeting to provide input and set out their views.

The Steering Committee reviewed the progress to date of the consultants, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), in undertaking the evaluation. PwC reported significant progress in identifying best practices in governance from the public and private sectors of multiple territories. Preparatory research and initial interviews have commenced in support of the best practice comparative analysis on the United Nations organisations themselves. Interviews have been held with key stakeholders and management representatives. Efforts will continue over the forthcoming weeks, especially with respect to the specialized agencies, to meet the project timelines.

The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on a further three occasions. The outcome of the evaluation will consist of a report on governance, and an independent evaluation of oversight, including the comprehensive review of the OIOS by 31st May 2006.

Contacts in regard to this release:

Mr. George Kyriacou
Project Coordinator, Office of the Controller
Tel: +1 (212) 963 6451 (New York, USA)
E-mail: kyriacou@un.org

Or

Mr. Mervyn King S.C.
Chairman of the UN Steering Committee
Tel: +27 11 5071324 (Johannesburg, South Africa)
E-mail: mking@brait.com

Mr. GUY ALMEIDA ANDRADE

Mr. Andrade is Managing Partner of Magalhães Andrade S/C Auditores Independentes (Magalhães Andrade) where he is in charge of Auditing, Accounting Services and O&M Consulting, and Financing Director of RBA Global Auditores Independentes, a local network with offices throughout Brazil. He was educated at the School of Management and Economics of the University of São Paulo.

Mr. Andrade has more than 30 years of experience in auditing, accounting, internal control systems, business and tax evaluation, serving clients of diverse sizes and activities. He has been a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Board since 2000. He has chaired the IFAC Audit Committee since November 2002 and has served as a member since November 2001. In July 2004 he became a member of the Audit Committee of Unibanco S.A., one of Brazil's top banks.

Mr. Andrade is the immediate past President of the Instituto dos Auditores Independentes do Brasil (IBRACON). Since 2004 he is a member of the Fiscal Council for the support of the “Zero Fome” (zero hunger) Program.

In addition to his professional experience, he has lectured and published several papers, articles and books on accounting issues.

Mr. JEAN-PIERRE HALBWACHS

Mr. Halbwachs is the representative of the Secretary-General and Chairman of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq. He is also the former Assistant Secretary-General and Controller of the United Nations.

PROFESSOR SHINJI HATTA

Mr. Hatta is Professor of Auditing at the Graduate School of Professional Accountancy at Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo. He was educated at Keio University and Waseda University.

In his professional capacity, Mr. Hatta is the Chairman of the Sub-committee on Internal Control of the Business Accounting Council of the Financial Services Agency, an Examiner of the Certified Public Accountants Examination for the Certified Public Accountants and Auditing Oversight Board of the Financial Services Agency, and President of the Japan Auditing Association, and member of the Council of Japan Accounting Association.

In the private sector he is the Academic Coordinator for the JICPA Journal, a member of the Japanese Institute of CPAs Ethics Committee, a member of the Japanese Institute of CPAs Auditing Issues Deliberation Committee, and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Japan

In academic life Mr. Hatta was Professor of Accounting and Auditing of the School of Management at Aoyama Gakuin University, and Professor of Accounting and Auditing of the

Department of Economics at Surugadai University, Saitama. He has multiple publications on areas such as auditing, corporate governance, international accounting, and integrated frameworks of internal control.

JUDGE MERVYN KING SC

Mr. King is the Chairman of the King Committee on Corporate Governance, Chairman of the Automobile Association of South Africa, Chairman of Dunlop Africa Limited, Chairman of Strate Limited, Chairman of the Brait Societe Anonyme, and a director of JD Group Limited. He was educated at the University of Witwatersrand.

He was the First President of the Commonwealth Association of Corporate Governance, a member of the Private Sector Advisory Group to the World Bank on Corporate Governance, a former Governor of The International Corporate Governance Network and a member of the advisory board of the Asian Centre for Corporate Governance.

Mr. King is Professor Extraordinaire of the University of South Africa on Corporate Citizenship, President of the Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa and Chairman of its Appeals Committee, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the South African Council of the International Chamber of Commerce. He is Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Witwatersrand Foundation, first Vice President of the Institute of Directors Southern Africa, Director of the Advisory Board of the South African Savings Institute, and co-deputy Chairman of the Securities Regulation Panel.

He consults, advises and talks on corporate governance issues locally and internationally. He has numerous papers, presentations and lectures delivered at national and international conferences, universities and institutions in twenty-seven countries, on corporate governance, legal and commercial issues. He is the author of "The Corporate Citizen".

PROFESSOR SIR ANDREW LIKIERMAN

Mr. Likierman is Professor of Management Practice at London Business School and a non-executive Director of the Bank of England. He was educated at the University of Vienna and Balliol College Oxford.

His career has spanned work in professional and public life, in the private sector and academic life. In his professional capacity, Mr. Likierman was President of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and a member of the Financial Reporting Council. He was a member of the "Cadbury Committee", which established the current framework for UK corporate governance. He was also Chairman of a corporate governance review for the Public Sector Committee of the International Federation of Accountants and of a UK government enquiry into professional liability.

In the public sector Mr. Likierman was a member of the Cabinet Office "Think Tank" and has recently completed a 10-year period as one of the Managing Directors of the UK Treasury and Head of the UK Government Accountancy Service. In this period he led the project to change the basis of government planning, control and reporting and chaired the group which developed a corporate

governance framework for UK central government departments. As a Director of the Bank of England, he is Chairman of its Risk Committee and a member of the Audit Committee. He is also currently Deputy Chairman of the Tavistock and Portman Health Trust and Chairman of its Audit Committee.

In the private sector he worked as a management accountant with Tootal Ltd, ran a textile plant in Germany and was Managing Director of the overseas division of Qualitex Ltd. He has been the non-executive Chairman of two unquoted companies - Economists' Bookshop Ltd. and the market research firm MORI Ltd. He is currently a non-executive director of Barclay's Bank and a member of its Audit and Risk Committees.

In academic life Mr. Likierman lectured at Leeds University and his previous posts at London Business School have included Deputy Principal and Professor of Accounting and Financial Control. He is currently working with organisations in six countries on how organisations can improve their choice and use of performance measures, including accountability, risk and governance.

Mr. KAMLESH SHIVJI VIKAMSEY

Mr. Vikamsey is a senior partner at Khimji Kunverji & Co, Chartered Accountants in Bombay, and a member firm of HLB International.

He is a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Board since November 2005, and served on the IFAC Small and Medium Practices Permanent Task Force (now the Small and Medium Practices Committee) from November 2004 to November 2005. He is the director and chair of the audit committees for several Indian companies. He is also Honorary Treasurer of Global Vipassana Foundation.

A practicing Chartered Accountant for 23 years, Mr. Vikamsey was the immediate President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), where he has served on the Central Council since 1998. He is the chair of the Professional Development Committee and serves as a member of various ICAI committees, including the Accounting Standards Board and International Affairs Committee and a Director of Accounting Research Foundation. He is also Deputy President of the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA).