

Agenda Item 10 - Reports on Audit and Oversight

- i. Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC) (doc. WO/GA/55/8)
- ii. Report by the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD) (doc. WO/GA/55/9)

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the CEBS Group, I would like to commend the work undertaken by the IAOC and the IOD and thank them for their comprehensive reports. We welcome the interaction between the IAOC and the IOD as such close cooperation is not only crucial for ensuring sound oversight and management of the Organisation, but also it significantly improves the process of the implementation of the issued recommendations.
2. The CEBS Group appreciates that the IAOC studied direct linkages of the various activities to the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP), suggested a mapping exercise of risks and paid attention also to the risk management and financial reporting.
3. We also highly value the work of the IOD and we believe that it contributes towards the continuous improvement of the effectiveness and transparency of the Organization. Moreover, the IOD plays an important role by supporting WIPO in strengthening controls, accountability, transparency and learning and in introducing innovative and fit-for-purpose tools and practices that enables WIPO to move towards the highest standards in risk management and program delivery. Therefore, we welcome the results of evaluation and investigative activities carried out by the IOD.
4. Our Group also recognizes that recommendations of the external and internal oversight bodies are elaborated with endeavour to further effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, thus we encourage the Secretariat to continue working on their sound implementation.
5. Thank you.

ii. Report by the External Auditor (doc. A/63/6)

1. On behalf of the CEBS Group, I would like to commend the work of the External Auditor and thank him for the comprehensive and detailed report and presentation.
2. Furthermore, we reviewed the report by the External Auditor and note with satisfaction that the financial statements received a high assessment. At the same time, we are pleased to hear that WIPO has sound system of internal controls and reporting, which shows that effective governance, without any significant weaknesses, forms an integral part of the Organization.
3. The CEBS Group also welcomes that WIPO continues to deliver a strong financial performance in 2021 and despite the continued challenges of the pandemic in 2021 the Organization keeps a healthy reserve position and is able to respond to the global economic uncertainty.

4. Our Group also recognizes that recommendations of the External Auditor are well elaborated and therefore, we encourage the Secretariat to continue working on their sound implementation.