

PRESS RELEASE

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

**New Delhi
8 December 2021**

PANEL'S CONSTRUCTIVE OVERSIGHT WILL HELP UN ORGANIZATIONS TO EFFICIENTLY UTILIZE THEIR RESOURCES: CAG

In his closing remarks at the Sixty- first Regular Session of the UN Panel of External Auditors, CAG of India and Chair of the Panel, Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu, emphasized the Panel's pivotal role in ensuring transparency and improving governance in their client organizations. While financial and compliance audits ensure adherence to rules and regulations, Mr. Murmu reiterated his confidence in constructive oversight over initiatives like UN reforms, Covid impact on UN operations, Sustainable Development, etc.

The Panel discussed regular audit activities and reviewed progress on earlier decisions. Throughout its discussions, the Panel was alert to the very specific challenges faced by the UN because of the pandemic, and in delivering on its role in coordinating humanitarian efforts to both prevent Covid-19 and mitigating its impact, even while continuing to deliver on its existing mandate. The matters of concern raised in these deliberations, were conveyed by the Chair of the Panel to the UN Secretary General, in the latter's role as Chair of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. This is an important output of the Panel's work and included issues related to accounting standards and reporting, Covid

impact on internal controls, outsourcing of services, implementation of Common Back Offices, environmental and social governance concerns for the UN, etc.

The Sixty-first regular session of the Panel was held during 6-7 December 2021 as a hybrid session, hosted from the United Nations Head Quarters, New York. The meeting was attended by representatives from Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Ghana, Philippines, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Tanzania as an observer. The Panel also met with the UN Secretary-General for an exchange on important issues to the United Nations system entities.

The Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency was established by the General Assembly Resolution 1438 (XIV) of 5 December 1959. It is made up of (a) the members of the United Nations Board of Auditors; and (b) the external auditors of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India has been the Chair of UN Panel of External Auditors since 2020.

BSC/SS/TT