

## **ESTHER STERN**

*Interregional Adviser in Public Financial Management  
Division for Public Administration and development management  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations  
E-mail: [sterne@un.org](mailto:sterne@un.org) Tel 1 212 963 8100- Fax 1 212 963 1265*

### **Abstract**

Abstract not received

### **Biography of Presenter**

Esther Stern has wide international and field experience in the area of oversight which she applies in her current position as Interregional Adviser in Public Financial Management within the United Nations (UN), a position she has occupied since 2003. As a recognized expert in the measurement and promotion of economy, efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure and results-based auditing, she is providing technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in areas of financial management, internal and external control, audit, performance management and anti-corruption. One of her current projects involves innovative approaches in results-based and participatory auditing of pro-poor programmes including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Prior to this position, she was Director of Internal Audit and Management Consulting of the UN for over five years. The division she headed was the largest audit entity of the UN family of agencies with over one hundred staff members organized in five sections in New York headquarters, two sections in the Geneva and Nairobi duty stations, and over ten units of "resident" auditors in selected peacekeeping missions, UN tribunals, the Oil-for-Food programme and Economic and Social Regional Commissions. Indeed, the oversight universe provided coverage for the UN Secretariat and associated funds and trust funds, programmes and activities worldwide including political missions, a variety of programmes and projects dealing with the environment, technical assistance, crime and drug control, human rights and humanitarian activities, trade, the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund and related investment operations, and UN Information Centers.

The audits carried out under her tenure have contributed to improved internal controls, clearer accountability mechanisms and greater operational effectiveness and efficiency. Over 4000 audit recommendations were issued, including recommendations calling for cost savings and erroneous payment recoveries amounting to \$180 million including \$65 million actual recoveries.

Before joining the UN in 1998, Ms. Stern held a variety of senior positions, including Principal Director at the Office of the Auditor General of Canada where she led external audits of UN agencies and directed the international audit portfolio dealing inter alia with foreign policy, international trade and development aid. Her experience includes assignments in developing countries with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for the assessment and reform of institutions involved in public expenditure management, oversight and technical assistance.

She has developed, led and organized a number of international conferences and seminars on measuring and promoting accountability, best practices in auditing and evaluating development aid, financial management and governance.