

Announcement:

Seeking new members for the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee

The UNOPS Executive Director is seeking candidates interested in joining the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee. Members of the Committee provide external, independent, senior-level advice to the UNOPS Executive Director on the functioning of audit and oversight in the organization.

UNOPS is committed to gender parity, inclusion and diversity in its workforce. For the Committee, we are seeking seasoned senior professionals that jointly bring diversity in background, experience and critical thinking.

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About UNOPS

Our vision is a world where people can live full lives supported by sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure, and by effective and transparent use of public resources in procurement and project management.

Our mission is to help people build better lives and support countries in achieving peace and sustainable development.

Our team of over 5,000 professionals works with partners in more than 85 countries to expand implementation capacity accelerating countries' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We are committed to help the most vulnerable people and support countries in special and fragile situations.

Our value proposition lies in our ability to respond, and to enable partners by expanding their implementation capacity in support of achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. We provide cost-effective project services through technical expertise in infrastructure, procurement and project management. We create collaborative advantage for partners in the United Nations system and beyond, even in the most challenging operational contexts.

In June 2023, the UNOPS Executive Board approved the [restated strategic plan, 2022-2025](#). The Committee will play a critical role in providing strategic advice, including in relation to the implementation of the plan.

The restated strategic plan affirms UNOPS ability to support all Goals through expertise in sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure, public procurement and supply chains, and project and programme implementation through sustainable approaches.

The plan stresses that commitment to sustainable implementation for the Goals does not presume a programmatic role. It focuses on responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people in countries in special and fragile situations, and in middle-income countries.

It sets a UNOPS ambition to harness capacity based on experience and anticipated demand, with particular focus on health, climate change, and renewable energy. It highlights expertise to support countries' capacity-development for public procurement and infrastructure.

The Audit Advisory Committee (AAC)

The AAC assists the UNOPS Executive Director and the Executive Board in exercising their oversight responsibilities in accordance with relevant best practices, industry standards, financial and staff regulations and rules, as well as policies and procedures applicable to UNOPS and its operating environment.

The primary role of the Committee is to provide external, independent, senior-level advice regarding the functioning of audit and oversight in UNOPS; internal and external audit and oversight matters; financial management and reporting; ethics; and strategy implementation. A simple majority of the Committee shall have significant, relevant and recent experience in financial management and internal oversight.

The Committee acts in an independent advisory capacity, and is neither a governance nor an appeal body. It shall seek to promote proper governance and high ethical standards, as well as the adoption and use by management of best practices for risk and financial management, and systems of internal control and accountability.

Members of the Committee act in an independent, non-executive capacity while performing their advisory role in the Committee on a pro bono basis. The terms of reference of the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee are available on unops.org.

AAC Mandate

As part of the Audit Advisory Committee, the Members' responsibilities include:

Financial management and controls

- 1) Review and advise on policies significantly affecting financial management and reporting; and on the UNOPS financial statements and reports, including any significant changes in accounting policies, presentation and disclosures.
- 2) Be consulted on any proposed changes to the Financial Regulations and Rules.
- 3) Review and advise on the effectiveness of the UNOPS systems of internal controls and accountability; including its internal governance, risk management and control procedures.
- 4) Review and advise on prevention and control of fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct of a financial or non-financial nature.

Internal audit and investigations

- 5) Review and advise on the internal audit and investigations functions:
 - a) The Charter.
 - b) Any policies significantly affecting the function.
 - c) The appointment, early termination and performance assessment of the director for internal audit and investigations functions.
 - d) The strategy, annual work plans, budgets and periodic reports.
 - e) The quality and assurance improvement programme, including internal and external assessments.
 - f) Relevant reports and management letters.
 - g) The status of implementation by management of oversight recommendations.
 - h) The policy for disclosure of internal audit reports and implementation thereof.
 - i) Material and/or strategic risks identified through internal audits and investigations.

Ethics

- 6) Review and advise on the ethics function:
 - a) The appointment, early termination and performance assessment of the director of the ethics function.
 - b) The strategy, annual work plans, budgets and periodic reports.
 - c) Any policies significantly affecting the function.
 - d) The administration of the Financial Disclosure programme as per ST/SGB/2007/11.

External audit

- 7) Review and advise on the UN Board of Auditors:
 - a) Audit scope and related matters.
 - b) Reports of the UNBOA and relevant management letters.
 - c) The status of implementation by management of oversight recommendations.
 - d) Material and/or strategic risks identified through UNBOA audits.

Internal governance

- 8) Promote the understanding and effectiveness of the audit and investigations as well as ethics functions; provide a forum to discuss ethics, internal control and other matters raised by the UNBOA and IAIG; and strive to maintain open communications with them.
- 9) Consider the risk and control implications of audit reports and management letters and highlight, as appropriate, issues that may need further examination with proper consideration to confidentiality and due process.
- 10) Review and advise on internal governance through policy and procedure managed by the director of the legal function, including as it relates to the organization's compliance function.

Strategy implementation

- 11) Review and advise on strategy implementation, including positioning, communications, management and leadership, organizational culture, and strategic initiatives.
- 12) Review and advise on results-based management and reporting, including monitoring, analysis and reporting on management results and contributions.

Information technology

- 13) Review and advise on the governance, development and management information technology systems impacting financial management and reporting.

Other issues

- 14) Review and advise on any issues arising from activities covered by its terms of reference.

Qualifications and work experience required

Education

An advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in a relevant field; or first university degree with additional professional experience is required.

Experience

You have:

- At least 15 years of progressively responsible professional work and management experience in one or more of the Committee's areas of responsibility:
 - finance
 - accounting
 - organizational governance in the UN context
 - external audit
 - internal audit and investigations
 - ethics
 - internal controls
 - risk management principles and practices
 - strategy development and implementation.
- Experience in the areas of health, climate change or renewable energy is an asset.
- Experience in infrastructure, procurement or project management is an asset.
- Experience from deployment and operations in challenging contexts is an asset.
- Experience for larger-scale digital transformation programmes is an asset.
- Proven experience in large, complex international and/or internationally operating corporate organizations.

- A track record of providing expertise in an advisory capacity to Executive level stakeholders.

Previous experience in serving in an Audit Advisory Committee (or similar) is an advantage, but not a requirement.

Language requirements

Professional working knowledge of English is a requirement.

Terms and conditions

Members of the Committee shall act in an independent, non-executive capacity.

Members are not remunerated for activities undertaken in their capacity as members of the Committee. However, UNOPS will reimburse all committee members for any travel and subsistence costs that are necessarily incurred in relation to participation in Committee meetings.

Members are indemnified from actions taken against them as a result of activities performed in the course of exercising their responsibilities as members of the Committee, as long as such activities are performed in good faith and with due diligence.

Members shall sign a statement of disclosure of interest.

Members shall not be held personally liable for decisions taken by the Committee acting as a whole.

Former UNOPS personnel shall not be appointed to the Committee within three years of the termination of their employment with the organization.

Former Committee members shall not accept employment as UNOPS personnel within three years after the end of their tenure.

Members are appointed for a term of three years, renewable once.

The Committee normally meets four times per year. These meetings may be in person, normally at UNOPS headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark; or virtually. From time to time, the Committee may decide to convene in person at an alternate location.

How to apply

Interested individuals are kindly requested to announce their interest by sending an **email** with the subject line "AAC candidacy" to aac.member@unops.org no later than **15 January 2024**. Please include:

- Your full name
- Your current nationality
- Gender
- A short cover note stating your motivation to serve as a member of the UNOPS AAC
- Your CV (as attachment)

UNOPS reserves the right to contact only those individuals that have been shortlisted. All information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Notes

UNOPS has a zero-tolerance approach to misconduct such as fraud, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. All selected candidates will be expected

to adhere to UNOPS standards of conduct and will therefore undergo background verification through a third party.

Selected candidates will be required to provide additional information as part of the verification exercise, including professional references and personal details for background checks. Misrepresentation of information provided during the entirety of the process may lead to disqualification or termination of appointment.