Item 15a. UNOPS

2023/

Early midterm review of the UNOPS strategic plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Executive Director for 2022; UNOPS strategic plan, 2022-2025, restated

1. Takes note of the fast-tracked midterm review of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) strategic plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Executive Director, 2022, (DP/OPS/2023/5) presented in accordance with decisions 2022/24 and 2023/4, and based on the format presented at the second regular session 2022;

2. Recognizes that the midterm review was informed based on comprehensive internal and external consultation; and analysis of performance, including an external evaluation with case studies of how projects implemented contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 3, 7 and 13;

3. Endorses the restated UNOPS strategic plan, 2022-2025, (DP/OPS/2023/6) presented in accordance with decisions 2022/24 and 2023/4;

4. Notes that the Strategic Plan, as the overall strategic framework for UNOPS, is not intergovernmentally negotiated, and acknowledges that the Strategic Plan includes some references to terms, concepts and documents that have not been intergovernmentally endorsed in the United Nations system;

5. Welcomes the inclusion of UNOPS non-programmatic mandate as a service provider in the restated Strategic Plan, 2022-25, confirming the return to its original mandate of providing infrastructure, procurement and project management services as stated in resolution 65/176 (2010);

6. Encourages UNOPS to continue and consolidate systematic analysis and reporting to the Executive Board on the contributions of its service delivery to the operational results of partners, the expansion of partners’ implementation capacity and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

7. Acknowledges the potential for a mutually reinforcing relationship between procurement and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and directs UNOPS to continue to undertake procurement activities in line with its financial regulations and rules, giving due consideration to the principles of best value for money, fairness, integrity and transparency, effective competition, and the best interests of UNOPS and its clients;

8. Notes with concern the decline in procurement from local suppliers in 2022 and requests UNOPS to strengthen efforts to support local capacity development through engagement with suppliers in local supply chains, in line with UNOPS financial regulations and rules.

9 June 2023
Item 15b. UNOPS

2023/

Comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews on UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. Acknowledges the progress made by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in implementing the comprehensive response plan in response to the third-party reviews on UNOPS;

2. Notes with appreciation the monthly update briefings provided to the Executive Board by the UNOPS Executive Director and the online monitoring tool to increase transparency;

3. Recalls decision 2023/4, paragraph 11, and reiterates the request that UNOPS extend the monthly briefing until the first regular session in 2024;

4. Decides to also incorporate the comprehensive response plan reporting into the regular reporting cycle of the strategic plan;

5. Recalls decision 2023/1, paragraph 11, and requests UNOPS to provide the Executive Board with their plan to implement the decision in advance of the second regular session 2023.

9 June 2023
Item 15c. UNOPS

2023/

UNOPS distribution to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, of excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the conference room paper on the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) cost recovery model and reserves (DP/OPS/2023/CRP.5);

2. Welcomes UNOPS commitment to target zero net revenue; and directs UNOPS to proceed with the return of any excess reserves, in accordance with this decision;

3. Recalls decision 2022/13 to freeze all transfers out of the operational reserve for any purpose other than daily operations;

4. Recalls decision 2023/4, and reiterates:
   (a) All necessary organizational investment requirements and other expenses required to keep UNOPS fit-for-purpose be included in the financial biennium that is approved by the Executive Board;
   (b) UNOPS set its fees to ensure it has the financial means required to maintain the minimum operational reserve level and make any organizational investment, as per the biennial budget estimates, while eliminating any accumulation of reserves over and above the minimum operational reserve;
   (c) Excess reserves are defined as total accumulated reserves minus the minimum operational reserve, as established by the Executive Board in its decision 2021/21;

5. Recalls decision 2023/4 on reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021 and in this regard:
   (a) Recognizes the ongoing process by UNOPS of distributing without delay these excess reserves to paying entities;
   (b) Requests UNOPS to make a good faith effort over a maximum of 12 months to distribute all these excess reserves to paying entities after which UNOPS will propose to the Executive Board at the first regular session of 2024 an alternative use for undisbursed funds, within the United Nations system and/or to replenish the UNOPS minimum operational reserve;

6. Notes the upcoming third-party independent review on the distribution of excess reserves and requests an update on the findings and recommendations during the monthly update briefings;

For all excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021:

7. Requests UNOPS to propose to the Executive Board for approval at every second regular session at which the UNOPS biennial budget is considered, starting in 2023, a fair and transparent methodology, and timeframe for distributing, within 12 months following the receipt of the board of auditors report, any excess reserves accumulated in the relevant budget cycle to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, to be presented to the Executive Board in an informal session prior to those second regular sessions;

8. Requests UNOPS to make a good faith effort to distribute all excess reserves and propose to the Executive Board for approval an alternative use for the undisbursed funds;

9. Requests UNOPS to report to the Executive Board at every session the status of the distribution of excess reserves to paying entities, including undisbursed funds.

9 June 2023