Second regular session 2022
29 August to 1 September 2022, New York
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2022

Contents

Annual session 2022
(6 to 10 June 2022)

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The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Administrator for 2021 (DP/2022/17) and its annexes, the report of UNDP on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2021 (DP/2022/17/Add.1) and the statistical annex (DP/2022/17/Add.2);

2. Commends the progress made by UNDP, over the period of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, towards becoming an agile, innovative and resilient organization capable of providing effective local and global integrated solutions that advance sustainable development, particularly in the face of multiple complex and rapidly evolving challenges;

3. Takes note of the programmatic and institutional results achieved in 2021, including on poverty and inequality, innovative development financing, digitalization, climate action, social protection, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

4. Recognizes the overarching role of UNDP in poverty eradication, encourages UNDP to further its efforts in this regard and to strengthen the capacities of countries at all levels, including institutions and people, to accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development and to prevent, mitigate and respond to risks including crisis, conflict, natural disasters, climate and social and economic shocks, in line with the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;

5. Recognizes that in 2021 UNDP achieved its highest level of programme delivery in over a decade and encourages discussion between UNDP, programme countries, donors, the private sector, international financial institutions and civil society organizations to realize the Sustainable Development Goals and address the financing and funding gaps;

6. Recognizes the ongoing technical leadership of UNDP in the socioeconomic response to COVID-19, which has helped countries to prepare, respond and recover in the face of the pandemic and to integrate pandemic responses into long-term development plans;

7. Welcomes the continued strong commitment of UNDP to the United Nations development system repositioning and encourages UNDP to continue to work closely with other United Nations organizations, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators in country, to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. Welcomes the ambitious milestones set out in the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and urges continued commitment to results-driven programmes, agile, effective and efficient operations and multi-stakeholder partnerships that can help to unlock systemic transformation towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. Recalls its decisions 2021/5, paragraph 12, and 2021/14, paragraph 7, regarding the reporting on results jointly achieved with United Nations development system entities identified through common and complementary indicators;

10. Welcomes the commitment of UNDP to strengthen its management, oversight and fiduciary systems and reaffirms this requires both UNDP management and the Board to undertake continuous and sustained effort to achieve desired outcomes;

11. Requests UNDP to provide the Executive Board with all future reporting and statements at the same time it delivers these to other/external governance bodies, if they have a systemic governance significance for UNDP.

10 June 2022
2022/8
UNDP evaluation

The Executive Board

With regard to the annual report on evaluation, 2021 (DP/2022/21) and management commentaries thereto:

1. Takes note of the annual report on evaluation (DP/2022/21) and the management commentaries thereon, welcomes the additional analysis provided on key findings and lessons learned from evaluations carried out in 2021, and requests that UNDP address the issues raised;

2. Takes note of the expanded efforts of UNDP management and the Independent Evaluation Office to improve the quality and coverage of decentralized evaluations, as indicated in the document, ‘Information note: a road map for strengthening decentralized evaluations in UNDP’, and requests that UNDP management allocate sufficient resources and work with the Independent Evaluation Office to continue to improve evaluation capacities as outlined in the road map and to provide periodic progress updates to the Board;

3. Takes note of the good quality of management responses to evaluations, encourages UNDP to take further actions to address the quality of action plans for decentralized evaluations and overdue recommendations, and requests the Independent Evaluation Office to work with UNDP to better record evidence of implementation and track the results of actions implemented in response to evaluation recommendations;

4. Recalls decision 2022/3, in particular paragraph 2 on adequate resourcing of the evaluation function of UNDP and paragraph 4 on inter-agency collaboration in evaluations;

With regard to the report, financing the recovery: a formative evaluation of the UNDP response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Sustainable Development Goal financing (DP/2022/22) and the management response thereto (DP/2022/23)

5. Takes note of the evaluation of the UNDP response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Sustainable Development Goal financing and welcomes the formative nature of the evaluation;

6. Welcomes the evaluation findings and conclusions acknowledging the important role and contribution of UNDP in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the work of UNDP to strengthen access to financing for the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. Welcomes the commitment of UNDP to develop a road map for its Moonshot of promoting the alignment of $1 trillion of public and private capital to the Sustainable Development Goals, as the evaluation recommends, working with partners to leverage additional financing for and realigning existing resources with the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. Notes the commitment of UNDP, in response to the evaluation, to continue to broaden its support to domestic resource mobilization and to strengthen support for Sustainable Development Goal-related sovereign bond financing support;

9. Takes note of the UNDP commitments to climate financing and de-risking investments and the Moonshot ambition to connect 500 million people to energy systems, and encourages UNDP to work with government partners to align public and private financing towards this end.

10 June 2022
2022/9
United Nations Volunteers programme: Report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. Reaffirms General Assembly resolution 76/131 of 16 December 2021 on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) and twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, in which the Assembly recalled the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. Welcomes the results achieved by UNV in 2021 as reflected in the report of the Administrator (DP/2022/24);

3. Takes note of the results matrix, including baselines and targets, of the Strategic Framework, 2022-2025 (DP/2022/11), in line with the strategic guidance of General Assembly resolution 75/233, of 21 December 2020, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and based on the findings and recommendations of the independent evaluation of the previous Strategic Framework;

4. Commends UNV for being well embedded in the United Nations system as exemplified by its cooperation with 56 United Nations organizations;

5. Reaffirms the continued crucial role of the Special Voluntary Fund in delivering the UNV Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and calls upon all development partners in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund;

6. Commends UNV on its successful implementation of its digital transformation project and encourages UNV to continue its efforts in this regard as appropriate;

7. Requests UNV to continue being a strong advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

8. Expresses appreciation to all United Nations Volunteers for their outstanding contributions to the pandemic response and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during 2021.

10 June 2022

2022/10
Report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2021

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in 2021 (DP/2022/25);

2. Commends the progress made by UNCDF in implementing its Strategic Framework, 2018-2021;

3. Emphasizes its critical role in delivering innovative and blended financing approaches, including in support of wider United Nations development system activities, to support least developed countries in recovering and ‘building forward better’ from the COVID-19 crisis;

4. Recommits to supporting UNCDF in achieving its base growth resource requirements in accordance with the Strategic Framework.

10 June 2022
2022/11
Implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021: Report of the Executive Director

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the documents that make up the report of the Executive Director for 2021: DP/FPA/2022/4 (Part I, Part I/Add.1 and Part II);

2. Notes with appreciation the progress made by UNFPA in achieving the results and the end-of-plan targets of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021;

3. Notes the baselines and targets set out in the Integrated Results and Resources Framework, 2022-2025, and encourages continued commitment to results-driven programmes, agile and effective operations, and multistakeholder partnerships that can accelerate progress towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. Recalls its decisions 2021/9, paragraph 4, and 2021/17, paragraph 6, and requests UNFPA to continue to include in the annual reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of the strategic plan, 2022-2025, including in its midterm review, information on results jointly achieved with United Nations development system entities, identified through common and complementary indicators.

10 June 2022

2022/12
UNFPA evaluation

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report on the evaluation function (DP/FPA/2022/5), and of the programme of work and budget of the Evaluation Office in 2022;

2. Welcomes the achievements across the evaluation performance indicators and the continued adaptability and responsiveness of the evaluation function in the face of the COVID-19 crisis;

3. Also welcomes the achievements in contributing to United Nations system-wide evaluation efforts, and in fostering national evaluation capacity development;

4. Encourages UNFPA to continue to increase investments in the evaluation function.

10 June 2022

2022/13
Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation (S3i) reserve

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Executive Director (DP/OPS/2022/5) and expresses serious concerns about the reported irregularities, including weaknesses in oversight and loss of funds in some S3i projects;

2. Recognizes the contributions of UNOPS in 2021 to the operational results of governments, the United Nations, and other partners, through management support services and specialized technical expertise, expanding the implementation capacity for sustainable development;

3. Takes note of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and requests that future UNOPS reports be analytical in approach, describe problems encountered, explain major deviations from targets, and include analysis of materialized internal and external risk factors to the projects and how UNOPS has handled them;
4. Requests that UNOPS review and develop a timeline to implement all outstanding recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Joint Inspection Unit, and to present this to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2022;

5. Welcomes the achievement of gender parity and requests that UNOPS take further measures with a view to ensuring equitable geographical representation across the UNOPS workforce, and report back to the Board, through existing reporting, on steps taken in that regard;

6. Welcomes the contributions of UNOPS to COVID-19 response and recovery activities;

7. Expresses serious concerns at the reported irregularities, potential financial losses and alleged misconduct linked to S3i investments;

8. Requests that UNOPS, with urgency, take the following steps, as temporary measures, to address the failures regarding S3i and to slow accumulation of UNOPS reserves:
   (a) take all necessary steps to recover funds related to the S3i;
   (b) freeze all further S3i-related investments not already contractually committed by UNOPS;
   (c) transfer into the operational reserve any balance not committed to projects from the growth and innovation reserve, accumulated surpluses, and the S3i reserve;
   (d) freeze all further transfers of money out of the operational reserve into the growth and innovation reserve, the S3I reserve, accumulated surpluses, or for any purpose other than daily operations;

9. Further requests that UNOPS report to the Executive Board when these actions have been completed and decides to consider, upon completion, whether these actions satisfactorily address the root causes and institutional vulnerabilities within UNOPS that led to the failures associated with S3i in order to terminate the temporary measures;

10. Decides to create a working group in accordance with rule 9 of its rules of procedure consisting of 10 members and observers of the Executive Board to assess the root causes and institutional vulnerabilities within UNOPS that led to the failures associated with S3i, with a view to making recommendations to the Executive Board to facilitate additional necessary actions to consider at the second regular session 2022 and the first regular session 2023;

11. Requests that the Bureau of the Board conduct consultations with the regional groups to present two nominees per regional group to compose the working group, to be appointed by the Board through a silence procedure;

12. Requests that the working group undertake its work in consultation with, as appropriate and not limited to, UNOPS, the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Joint Inspection Unit;

13. Requests the working group to focus its work on the following, and to present its work to the Executive Board:
   (a) options for the appropriate use of UNOPS reserves;
   (b) options to increase transparency around UNOPS management fees and costing structure, with a view to limiting the accumulation of UNOPS reserves;
   (c) any other matters deemed appropriate by the Bureau for the working group to discuss;

14. Requests that UNOPS provide the following to the Executive Board and the working group, at the earliest possible date, and with a view to facilitating the efforts of the working group in an expedited manner, complementary to any other actions undertaken by UNOPS:
   (a) a third-party review of the oversight mechanisms that existed for S3i investments;
(b) a third-party review of UNOPS internal control systems, risk management and overall governance structures, including an assessment of the integrity of the wider UNOPS portfolio and a review of UNOPS cost structures;

15. *Requests* that UNOPS submit the terms of reference for these third-party reviews for approval by the working group prior to the commissioning of the reviews;

16. *Requests* that the Executive Director, ad interim, provide the Executive Board, as soon as possible, but no later than 15 July 2022, an action plan with a timeframe for all actions, including but not limited to those requested in this decision, to address concerns regarding S3i, with a view to enhancing transparency and accountability;

17. *Recalling* decision 2020/13 on the working methods, and recognizing the urgency of the situation, decides to include an update on the progress of the working group, including any preliminary findings, as an item for decision on the agenda of the second regular session 2022 and the first regular session 2023.

10 June 2022

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**2022/14**

**Update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes notes* of the updates provided by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 and related mandates on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requests that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS provide future updates in a concise, clear and relevant manner within existing reporting;

2. *Urges* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to implement General Assembly resolutions 72/279, 75/233 and 76/4 and to support the efforts of the Secretary-General in implementing related mandates;

3. *Welcomes* the partnerships with the international financial institutions, and decides to include an update on UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS engagement with the international financial institutions as a standalone item on the agenda of the first regular session 2023;

4. *Welcomes* UNDP and UNFPA progress in aligning country programme documents to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and urges UNDP and UNFPA to continue to seek confirmation from the resident coordinators of the alignment of the country programmes with the Cooperation Frameworks;

5. *Stresses* the importance of integrated solutions, including enhanced cooperation, collaboration and coordination across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding operations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to address the complex, multifaceted challenges impacting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS update the Executive Board on how they are collaborating in joint analysis, needs assessments, planning, including collective outcomes, and programme delivery;

6. *Requests* that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS provide the Executive Board with an update on the implementation of the management and accountability framework, including the contributions of heads of agencies at country level and regional representatives to the implementation of United Nations development system reform;
7. Requests that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS provide the Executive Board with information and data on their respective efforts to realize efficiency gains through their contributions to system-wide coherence, collaboration and harmonization, and stresses the need to continue to realize efficiency gains, as stated in operational paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 72/279.

10 June 2022

2022/15
Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations, and management responses

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the progress of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in addressing audit-related management issues in 2021;

2. Notes with appreciation efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations from previous reports;

3. Reiterates the importance of the provision of sufficient resources for audit and investigation functions;

4. Requests that the Executive Board receive more regular closed briefings from the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI), the UNFPA Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIS) and the UNOPS Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG), in a timely manner and throughout the year, as needed, on potential red flags, audit findings and the status of investigations;

5. Requests the Directors of the OAI, OAIS and IAIG to provide at the second regular session 2022 their comprehensive assessments on the independence of each office, containing reflections on (but not limited to) the degree to which each respective office can determine freely: (a) how and when to report to and brief the Executive Board; (b) the scope of audits and investigations; (c) what and who to audit or investigate; (d) what assessments to make; (e) how to utilize available funds; and (f) its relationship with the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS); and requests them to also provide suggestions and pathways on how to further strengthen the independence of each respective office as well as their budget estimates required for the execution of the full mandate;

6. Decides to include an item on internal controls for decision at the second regular session 2022;

With regard to UNDP:

7. Takes note of the annual report of the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) on internal audit and investigation activities in 2021 (DP/2022/15), which has been harmonized with those of other United Nations agencies, in line with Executive Board decision 2020/10, and its annexes and the management response thereto;

8. Expresses continuing support for the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP;

9. Takes note of the annual report of the Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee, which should be reviewed as a separate document within the framework of this report;

10. Requests that an independent evaluation of the OAI be undertaken to confirm that its resourcing, capacity and capability are appropriate to meet its workload under the newly strengthened fiduciary system in a timely and comprehensive manner;
With regard to UNFPA:

11. Takes note of (a) the report of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIS) on UNFPA internal audit and investigation activities in 2021 (DP/FPA/2022/6), harmonized with those of other funds and programmes, in line with Executive Board decision 2020/10; (b) the opinion of OAIS on the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNFPA framework of governance, risk management and control; (c) the annual report of the Oversight Advisory Committee (DP/FPA/2022/6/Add.1), and (d) the management response to these two reports;

12. Expresses continuing support for the strategic initiatives OAIS has started to embark on to improve its efficiency and effectiveness so it can better carry out its mandate;

With regard to UNOPS:

13. Takes note of the annual report of the Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG) for 2021 (DP/OPS/2022/3) and the management response;

14. Reaffirms the need to ensure the full independence of the UNOPS internal audit and investigation mechanisms;

15. Takes note of the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2021, in line with Executive Board decision 2008/37, and supports the recommendation that IAIG should maintain a clear delineation between internal oversight and advisory activities;

16. Requests the Director of IAIG to provide an update to the Executive Board on the status of investigations related to S3i irregularities at the second regular session 2022, or at an earlier date, as needed.

10 June 2022

2022/16
Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS (DP/2022/16; DP/FPA/2022/7; DP/OPS/2022/4);

2. Takes note of the continuously growing caseload of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS ethics offices and, concerned about their limited capacities, requests to ensure their respective ethics offices can adequately execute their mandates;

3. Requests the respective ethics offices to report on greater collaboration opportunities on field missions, on training and on outreach as well as on shared ethics-related guidance in their annual reports;

4. Requests the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to maintain and strengthen their independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 60/248 and 60/254, and encourages direct and independent communication with the Executive Board, as needed, through reports or briefings, in particular on concerns related to whistle-blower protection against retaliation issues;

5. Notes the progress made by the UNDP Ethics Office in strengthening the ethical culture of UNDP;

6. Welcomes the continued progress in the work of the UNFPA Ethics Office;

7. Reaffirms the need of the full independence of the UNOPS ethics function, and requests an independent review of the ethics function to ensure the independence and impartiality of the work;

8. Urges the Director of the UNOPS Ethics and Compliance Office to demonstrate and assure the Board of its full functionality and independence;
9. **Urges** UNOPS to ensure that a strong whistle-blower function and protection against retaliation system is in place to ensure the protection of individuals that report wrongdoings and risks related to weaknesses within the UNOPS management and control systems, and requests UNOPS to finalize and publish an updated whistle-blower policy, to be presented to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2022;

10. **Requests** UNOPS to update and make public its ethics website and to provide all information in an easy-to-access format for all UNOPS employees;

11. **Requests** the Director of the UNOPS Ethics and Compliance Office to report at the second regular session 2022 on the constitution of the office and the actions taken to strengthen the independence of the Office and whistle-blower protections.

10 June 2022

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2022/17

**Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2022**

**The Executive Board**

**Recalls** that during its annual session 2022, it:

**Item 1**

**Organizational matters**

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for the annual session 2022 (DP/2022/L.2);

Adopted the report of the first regular session 2022 (DP/2022/13);

**Joint segment**

**Item 2**

**Update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system**

Adopted decision 2022/14 on the update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system;

**Item 3**

**Internal audit and investigation**

Adopted decision 2022/15 on the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations, and management responses;

**Item 4**

**Ethics**

Adopted decision 2022/16 on the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS;

**Item 15**

**Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment**

Took note of the presentations made by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;

**UNDP segment**

**Item 5**

**Annual report of the Administrator**

Adopted decision 2022/7 Annual report of the Administrator for 2021;
Item 6
Gender equality at UNDP
Took note of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2022-2025, and of the annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021;

Item 7
UNDP country programmes and related matters
Approved the following UNDP country programmes, in accordance with decision 2014/7:
Africa region: Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania;
Arab States region: the Syrian Arab Republic;
Took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Angola, already approved by the Administrator;

Item 8
UNDP evaluation
Adopted decision 2022/8 on UNDP evaluation;

Item 9
United Nations Volunteers

Item 10
United Nations Capital Development Fund
Adopted decision 2022/10 on the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2021;

UNFPA segment
Item 12
Annual report of the Executive Director
Adopted decision 2022/11 on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021: Report of the Executive Director;

Item 13
UNFPA evaluation
Adopted decision 2022/12 on UNFPA evaluation;

Item 14
Country programmes and related matters
Approved the following UNFPA country programmes, in accordance with decision 2014/7:
Kenya (DP/FPA/CPD/KEN/10); Syrian Arab Republic (DP/FPA/CPD/SYR/9); and United Republic of Tanzania (DP/FPA/CPD/TZA/9).
UNOPS segment

Item 16

Annual report of the Executive Director

Adopted decision 2022/13 on the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation (S3i) reserve.

10 June 2022
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<td>3 – 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Draft annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2023</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Adoption of the tentative workplan for the first regular session 2023</td>
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<td>• Closing of the session</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, 1 September</strong></td>
<td>10 a.m. – 11 a.m.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>OTHER MATTERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Adoption of decisions</td>
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