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Executive Board of the

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Programme, the United Nations

Population Fund and the

United Nations Office for

Project Services

First regular session 2023

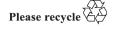
30 January to 3 February 2023, New York Item 1 of the provisional agenda **Organizational matters**

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2022

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Second regular session 2022 (29 August to 1 September 2022)

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2022/18 UNDP structured funding dialogue

The Executive Board

- 1. Welcomes the report on the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP strategic plans, 2018-2021 and 2022-2025 (DP/2022/28) and annexes, as well as the substantial progress made on United Nations entity-specific commitments under the United Nations funding compact, encourages UNDP to continue its efforts to meet the commitments under the funding compact, and reaffirms the call for entities of the United Nations development system and Member States to contribute to its full and effective implementation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/233;
- 2. Notes the importance of sufficient and predictable regular (core) resources linked to intended and demonstrated results, as these are critical for UNDP to deliver on the strategic plan, 2022-2025, respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises, help to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and maintain robust internal control and accountability systems;
- 3 *Expresses concern* with the current low level and continued decline of regular (core) resources, as these are also key to restoring development gains eroded by the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises;
- 4. *Recognizing* the continued trend of decline in core resources, requests that UNDP provide, in the context of the structured funding dialogue, a detailed analysis of the factors contributing to the decline of core resources and the potential implications on the ability of UNDP to deliver on its Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and identify measures to address this, which should be taken by UNDP and could be considered by Member States;
- 5. Recalls the importance of funding, predictability and multi-year contributions for 2022 and future years to enable UNDP to respond to the evolving needs of programme countries with agility;
- 6. Recalls decision 2020/14 on the importance of broadening the contributor base and encourages UNDP, in line with the United Nations funding compact, to engage with Member States to consider prioritizing contributions to UNDP regular resources in a timely and predictable manner and shifting from highly earmarked to regular and flexible resources, and further encourages UNDP to continue to make efforts in terms of visibility and recognition of contributions, in particular for regular resources and other flexible contributions, with a view to incentivizing an adequate and predictable level of funding;
- 7. *Notes* the importance of a diverse contributor base, and encourages UNDP to continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to diversify its potential sources of funding, including the private sector, foundations, civil society, individuals, and through strengthened partnerships with international financial institutions;
- 8. *Notes* the importance of flexible thematic and pooled funding, which are critical for UNDP to accelerate its programming to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- 9. *Encourages* UNDP to continuously strengthen and promote its funding windows as an additional flexible funding mechanism and a useful complement to regular resources;
- 10. Also encourages UNDP to continue to produce and report, through existing reporting mechanisms, on the progress and results in the implementation of its strategic plan, 2022-2025, with a view to incentivizing greater regular and other resources;
- 11. *Requests* that UNDP include information on the steps taken and the results achieved in the implementation of this decision in the report on the midterm review of its strategic plan, 2022-2025.

1 September 2022

2022/19 UNFPA structured funding dialogue

The Executive Board

- 1. Welcomes the report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue, 2021-2022 (DP/FPA/2022/10), and related annexes, as well as the substantial progress made on United Nations entity-specific commitments under the funding compact; encourages UNFPA to continue its efforts to meet the commitments under the funding compact and reaffirms the call for entities of the United Nations development system and Member States to contribute to its full and effective implementation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/233;
- 2. *Notes* the importance of sufficient and predictable regular (core) resources linked to intended and demonstrated results, as these are critical for UNFPA to deliver on the strategic plan, 2022-2025, respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and various humanitarian crises and to help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 3. Recalls decision 2021/19 on the importance of broadening the contributor base and requests UNFPA to continue engaging with Member States to consider prioritizing contributions to UNFPA regular (core) resources in a timely and predictable manner, in line with the funding compact, and requests UNFPA to continue to make efforts in terms of visibility and recognition of contributions, in particular for regular (core) resources;
- 4. *Notes* the importance of a diverse contributor base, and encourages UNFPA to continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to diversify its potential sources of funding, including the private sector, foundations, civil society and individuals, and through strengthened partnerships with international financial institutions;
- 5. *Notes* the importance of flexible thematic and pooled funding, as critical for UNFPA to be able to accelerate programming to meet the organization's three transformative results and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in those areas in which development gains have been eroded by the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises;
- 6. Encourages UNFPA to continue its dialogue with Member States, through the structured funding dialogues, on shifting from highly earmarked funds to more predictable and flexible funding, especially for core resources, and to adhere to the mutually reinforcing commitments of the funding compact.

1 September 2022

2022/20

Annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2021

The Executive Board

- 1. *Takes note* of the annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2021 (DP/OPS/2022/6);
- 2. Welcomes the data and analysis contained therein;
- 3. Encourages UNOPS to strengthen its cooperation with all United Nations system entities in order to enhance reporting on collaborative procurement and on efficiency gains achieved through this mechanism, and highlights the need for the United Nations development system to realize greater efficiency gains and increase transparent and sustainable procurement practices.

1 September 2022

2022/21

UNOPS: Progress report on actions addressing the situation of the sustainable investment in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) initiative

The Executive Board

- 1. Recalls decision 2022/13 and expresses its continued serious concerns with the reported irregularities, potential financial issues and alleged misconduct linked to S3i investments:
- 2. Requests that UNOPS ensures that the following funds are placed in the operational reserve and are subject to the provisions laid out in decision 2022/13:
 - (a) any funds recovered from S3i projects or proceeds from S3i investments;
 - (b) all accumulated reserves;
- 3. *Urges* the Acting Executive Director to take any and all measures within his remit to pursue full accountability for the failures, reported irregularities and alleged misconduct related to S3i with a view to ensuring that the real-world impact for current and future beneficiaries of UNOPS projects remains the organization's top priority;
- 4. *Notes with appreciation* UNOPS timely preparation and presentation of an action plan for implementing decision 2022/13;
- 5. Further notes with appreciation the provision of information by UNOPS to the working group established in Executive Board decision 2022/13 and encourages UNOPS to continue to engage with the working group and the Executive Board in an open and transparent manner;
- 6. Welcomes the working group's informal paper on options for the use of UNOPS reserves, calls upon the working group to submit its formal report to the Executive Board in advance of the first regular session 2023, and decides to take a decision on the utilization of UNOPS existing and future reserves to be informed by the third-party assessments requested in decision 2022/13 and the working group report at the earliest possible opportunity;
- 7. Decides to take a decision on S3i, to be informed by the third-party assessments and the working group report at the earliest possible opportunity;
- 8. Decides to hold, as per the request of the Acting Executive Director of UNOPS, a special session of the Executive Board on UNOPS-related matters at the earliest possible opportunity, following receipt by the Executive Board of the third-party reviews and any relevant information from the working group, as noted in paragraph 11 of this decision;
- 9. *Takes note* of UNOPS activities to urgently address the failures regarding S3i and urges UNOPS to continue to be proactive in addressing such failures and to slow the accumulation of its reserves, in consultation with and approval by the Executive Board;
- 10. Notes UNOPS activities to 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;

11. *Takes note* of the progress made by UNOPS and the working group in implementing decision 2022/13, recalling paragraphs 14a and 14b, and invites the working group, as needed and at the request of the Bureau, to present relevant information regarding the third-party reviews and options for possible actions to address the failures regarding S3i, slow the accumulation of UNOPS reserves – as well as options for the appropriate use of UNOPS reserves – and increase transparency around UNOPS management fees and pricing structure.

1 September 2022

2022/22

Update on oversight matters

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the directors of 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), which provide an assessment on the degree of independence of each office as well as recommendations for improvements in administrative processes and operational arrangements, in line with decision 2022/15;
- 2. Takes note of the suggestions and pathways recommended in the assessments of the independence of OAI, OAIS and IAIG, and of their respective management responses, and requests that: (a) UNDP and UNFPA take action, as appropriate, to implement the assessments' recommendations and report, in their management responses for the annual session in 2023, on the progress made by UNDP and UNFPA, respectively, on their implementation; and asks, in case a recommendation has not or partially been implemented or agreed to by management, the management of UNDP and UNFPA to provide explanations, in line with established practice; (b) UNOPS urgently implement all recommendations made by IAIG and that it report to the Executive Board during the annual session in 2023 on the progress made in this regard;
- 3. Stresses the importance of ensuring that independent audit and investigation offices have full independence in delivering their services to provide the Executive Board, agency management and other stakeholders the necessary and appropriate assurances and advice on the governance, risk management and internal controls of the entities;
- 4. Recalls its decision 2022/15, paragraph 4, and, in this regard, welcomes more regular closed briefings from the independent audit and investigation offices in a timely manner and throughout the year, as needed, on potential red flags, emerging risks and internal control issues, audit findings and the status of investigations, with due regard for confidentiality and privacy;
- 5. Also recalls decision 2022/15, paragraph 3, and reiterates the importance of the provision of sufficient resources for audit and investigation functions in order to preserve the offices' independence, integrity and professionalism, and to allow for full, adequate and effective execution of the respective mandate of each audit and investigations office, within the established applicable budgetary process, and to update policies, where applicable;
- 6. Requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to include, as a permanent annex in their annual reports to the Executive Board, a concise agency-specific summary of the oversight functions responsible for audit, investigation, ethics, evaluation and whistle-blower protection, and also requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to ensure these summaries follow a uniform template, to be provided by the Bureau;

- 7. Further requests OAI, OAIS and IAIG to include in the executive summaries of their reports shared with the Executive Board, as appropriate, potential red flags, emerging risks and internal control issues, audit findings and the status of investigations, which require specific attention from the Executive Board;
- 8. *Welcomes* efforts of OAI, OAIS and IAIG to harmonize approaches between the organizations and encourages continuing these cooperation efforts to enhance effectiveness, efficiency and inter-agency learning;
- 9. Requests the Bureau of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in consultation with the relevant bureaux of United Nations development system entities, to provide options and cost estimates for an assessment, including the feasibility of a third-party assessment by an entity external to the United Nations system with independent expertise on governance and oversight, of how the Executive Board, in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS as well as the United Nations system, executes its governance and oversight functions, with a view to ensuring that these functions are aligned with the highest international standards and best practices;
- 10. Further requests the Bureau of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to present these options for consideration by the Executive Board by the first regular session 2023, with a view to providing a final assessment and relevant recommendations to the Executive Board no later than the annual session 2023;

With regard to UNDP:

11. Notes with appreciation that OAI conducted the self-assessment in compliance with the request in decision 2022/15 and in conformity with UNDP regulations and rules, policies and procedures, including the consideration of internationally recognized standards applicable for audit and investigations functions, and welcomes responses in the self-assessment report that attest to the independence of the office;

With regard to UNFPA:

12. Notes with appreciation that OAIS conducted the self-assessment in compliance with the request in decision 2022/15 and in conformity with UNFPA regulations and rules, policies and procedures, including the consideration of internationally recognized standards applicable for audit and investigations functions, and welcomes responses in the self-assessment report that attest to the independence of the office;

With regard to UNOPS:

- 13. *Endorses* IAIG revised audit charter and requests the Acting Executive Director of UNOPS to promulgate it without further notice;
- 14. *Expresses* concern about the observations outlined in the assessment of the independence of the IAIG;
- 15. *Urges* UNOPS to promote the independence and integrity of IAIG, and to restore and continuously strengthen its organizational culture with regard to ethics, transparency and integrity;
- 16. *Recognizes* the recent efforts made by the Director of IAIG to establish regular meetings and interactions with the Executive Board and encourages him to maintain the relationship with the Board.

1 September 2022

2022/23

Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2022

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its second regular session 2022, it:

Item 1

Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for the second regular session 2022 (DP/2022/L.3);

Adopted the report of the annual session 2022 (DP/2022/26);

Agreed with the tentative workplan for the first regular session 2023;

UNDP segment

Item 2

Structured funding dialogue

Adopted decision 2022/18 on the UNDP structured funding dialogue;

Item 3

UNDP country programmes and related matters

Approved the following UNDP country programmes, in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Africa region: Ghana (<u>DP/DCP/GHA/4</u>), Niger (<u>DP/DCP/NER/4</u>), South Sudan (<u>DP/DCP/SSD/4</u>), Zambia (<u>DP/DCP/ZMB/4</u>);

Asia-Pacific region: India (<u>DP/DCP/IND/4</u>, Mongolia (<u>DP/DCP/MNG/4</u>), Pakistan (<u>DP/DCP/PAK/3</u>), Sri Lanka (<u>DP/DCP/LKA/4</u>);

Arab States region: Egypt (<u>DP/DCP/EGY/4</u>), Jordan <u>DP/DCP/JOR/4</u>), Libya (<u>DP/DCP/LBY/4</u>), Saudi Arabia (<u>DP/DCP/SAU/4</u>), Yemen <u>DP/DCP/YEM/3</u>);

Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region: Kyrgyzstan (DP/DCP/KGZ/4), Montenegro (DP/DCP/MNE/3), Republic of Moldova (DP/DCP/MDA/4), Tajikistan (DP/DCP/TAJ/3);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Guinea, Myanmar and Ukraine ($\frac{DP/2022/30}{2}$).

Approved the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burkina Faso, Chad and the Sudan (<u>DP/2022/30</u>);

UNFPA segment

Item 4

UNFPA structured funding dialogue

Adopted decision 2022/19 on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue;

Item 14

UNFPA country programmes and related matters

Approved the following UNFPA country programmes, in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Ghana (DP/FPA/CPD/GHA/8); India (DP/FPA/CPD/IND/10);

Jordan (<u>DP/FPA/CPD/JOR/10</u>); Kyrgyzstan (<u>DP/FPA/CPD/KGZ/5</u>);

Republic of Moldova (DP/FPA/CPD/MDA/4); Mongolia (DP/FPA/CPD/MNG/7);

Morocco (DP/FPA/CPD/MAR/10); Niger (DP/FPA/CPD/NER/10);

Pakistan (<u>DP/FPA/CPD/PAK/10</u>); South Sudan (<u>DP/FPA/CPD/SSD/4</u>);

Sri Lanka (<u>DP/FPA/CPD/LKA/10</u>); Tajikistan (<u>DP/FPA/CPD/TJK/5</u>);

Yemen (DP/FPA/CPD/YEM/6); Zambia (DP/FPA/CPD/ZMB/9)

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Angola, Guinea, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Ukraine, (<u>DP/FPA/2022/11</u>).

Approved the first two-year extension of the country programme for Djibouti and the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burkina Faso, Chad, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Sudan (<u>DP/FPA/2022/11</u>);

UNOPS segment

Item 6

Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2022/20 on the annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2021;

Adopted decision 2022/21, entitled UNOPS: Progress report on actions addressing the situation of the sustainable investment in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) initiative;

Joint segment

Item 7

Update on oversight matters

Adopted decision 2022/22, update on oversight matters;

Item 8

Field visits

Took note of the report of the Executive Board field visit to Bangladesh (DP/FPA/OPS/2022/CRP.1).

TENTATIVE WORKPLAN EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2023

(30 January – 3 February, New York)

Day/Date	Time	Item	Subject
Monday, 30 January	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session • Adoption of the report of the second regular session 2022 • Adoption of the annual workplan 2023 of the Executive Board
			JOINT SEGMENT
		2	UPDATE ON UNDP, UNFPA AND UNOPS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
		3	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS
			UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS reports on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2021
	3 – 5 p.m.	4	FOLLOW-UP TO UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETING
			Joint UNDP and UNFPA report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS
		5	PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT
			Update on metrics used to measure progress on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment
		12	OTHER MATTERS
			Address by the Chairperson of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/UN-Women Staff Council
Tuesday, 31 January	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		UNOPS SEGMENT
31 January		11	STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
			Report of the working group on UNOPS
	3 – 5 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT
		7	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS
			 Presentation and approval of country programme documents Extensions of country programmes
Wednesday, 1 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)
			INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR

DP/2023/3

Day/Date	Time	Item	Subject
	3 – 5 p.m.	8	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT • Update on the Human Development Report consultations (General Assembly resolution 57/264) UNDP EVALUATION • Formative evaluation of UNDP integration of 'Leaving No One Behind' principles, and management response
Thursday, 2 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		UNFPA SEGMENT STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
	3 – 5 p.m.	9	UNFPA EVALUATION • Evaluation of UNFPA engagement in the reform of the United Nations development system, and management response • Evaluation of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth, and management response
Friday, 3 February	10 a.m.– 12 p.m.	10	UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme document • Extensions of country programmes
	12 – 1 p.m.	12	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of pending decisions ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the tentative workplan for the annual session 2023

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