

Update on finalisation of Excess Reserve as of 2021 refund process

1. Background / Previous Decisions

The Executive Board, in its decision 2024/28 paragraph 22 decided “to transfer all remaining excess reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021 and not disbursed by 31 December 2024, as unearmarked, equal contributions to the Joint SDG Fund and the Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System and the Development Coordination Office.” The Executive Board further, in its decision 2025/6 paragraph 15 decided “to transfer the undisbursed excess reserves allocated to [...] two paying entities in support of the relevant United Nations cooperation frameworks, in consultation with the Development Coordination Office.” In decision 2025/6 paragraph 17 the Executive Board also took note “that there were no liquid excess reserves as of 31 December 2023.”

2. Status and remaining steps refunding excess reserves as of 31 December 2021

The undistributed excess reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021: two payments with USD 166,355.5 each were transferred to the Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System and the Development Coordination Office respectively.

The UNOPS local teams are coordinating with the two relevant Resident Coordinators overseeing the United Nations cooperation frameworks for the two paying entities that remain un-disbursed as requested in decision 2025/6 para 15. Once suitable activities are identified with the support of the Development Coordination Office, the funds will be disbursed accordingly.

UNOPS has not initiated a refund process for the financial year 2023 as there were no liquid excess reserves. The Executive Board in decision 2025/6 paragraph 17 noted the absence of any liquid excess reserves as of 31 December 2023 and requested UNOPS to report back on the status of liquid excess reserves as per decision 2025/6 paragraph 18 in its 2024 financial statements on a pilot basis.