



**Executive Board of the  
United Nations Development  
Programme, The United Nations  
Population Fund and the United  
Nations Office for Project Services**

5 June 2014

English only

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**Annual session 2014**

23 to 27 June 2014, Geneva

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

**Financial, budgetary and administrative matters**

**The way forward on updating the UNFPA oversight policy**

**I. Background**

1. Pursuant to decision 2007/29, adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2007, the first UNFPA oversight policy (document DP/FPA/2008/14) was presented for consideration to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008. After an extensive review, the policy was approved, in decision 2008/37, by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2008.
2. In line with Article VII of the oversight policy, the Executive Director is responsible for recommending amendments to the policy, in order to further enhance UNFPA oversight mechanisms. Any amendment to the policy is subject to the decision of the Executive Board.
3. Since the policy was approved in 2008, there have been a number of developments related to oversight:
  - (a) The Executive Board adopted 17 decisions related to risk management, ethics, evaluation, audit, investigation and fraud. In addition, General Assembly resolution 67/226, Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, also points to strengthening accountability and oversight;
  - (b) Different organizational units are involved in oversight functions, with roles and responsibilities that have changed since 2008, including the Evaluation Office and the Office of Audit and Investigations;

- (c) Knowledge and practices in the field of oversight, in particular those related to risk management and internal control, have improved; relevant professional and ethical standards have also evolved since 2008;
  - (d) Information has become increasingly transparent, with internal audit reports now publicly available; and
  - (e) Management undertook several initiatives to strengthen its own oversight activities.
4. In addition, the implementation of the policy since 2008 has revealed there is some duplication in the present text as well as a need, in some places, for clarifying language and refining or adding definitions.
5. Hence, it would appear a natural evolution to update the oversight policy, as foreseen in Article VII, to reflect and incorporate the developments since 2008 mentioned above.

## **II. Proposed way forward**

6. The Executive Director proposes the following way forward to updating the policy:
- (a) *June 2014 – annual session of the Executive Board.* The Executive Board may wish to take a decision requesting an update of the oversight policy;
  - (b) *July to August 2014.* UNFPA would prepare a proposal for the draft revised oversight policy;
  - (c) *September 2014 – second regular session of the Executive Board.* The proposal would be presented for information at the Executive Board;
  - (d) *September to November 2014.* Informal consultations would be held with Member States in order to finalize the draft revised oversight policy;
  - (e) *January 2015 – first regular session of the Executive Board.* The draft revised oversight policy would be formally presented to the Executive Board, for its approval, as appropriate.
7. The Office of the Executive Director and the Division for Oversight Services are at the disposal of Executive Board members for any questions or further clarifications.
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