Second regular session 2017
5-11 September 2017, New York
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2017

Contents

Annual session 2017
(30 May to 8 June 2017, New York)

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2017/9
Special session 2017

The Executive Board

In accordance with Rule 1, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, decides to convene a special session in November 2017 for the purpose of considering and adopting the UNDP strategic plan and integrated budget for the period 2018-2021.

8 June 2017

2017/10
Cumulative review of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 and annual report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the cumulative review of the third year of implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 (document DP/2017/15) and its annexes;

2. Takes note of the enhanced analysis introduced by UNDP to identify reasons behind lower performance and report lessons learned as well as measures taken to improve identified weaknesses during the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

3. Takes note of the additional analysis provided in annex 1 presenting results achieved to date against the final 2017 targets by output;

4. Urges UNDP to accelerate progress and meet the 2017 targets as set out in the integrated results and resources framework for all development and institutional effectiveness outputs;

5. Requests UNDP to incorporate the lessons learned from the relevant analyses of performance under the current Strategic Plan, including the assessment of UNDP institutional effectiveness and the evaluation of the Strategic Plan itself, in the formulation of the new strategic plan, and urges UNDP to strengthen outputs, outcome and impact indicators in consultation with programme implementing units in the organization;

6. Recognizes the inter-agency efforts made to harmonize the report card methodology and format, and requests UNDP to continue consultations with United Nations funds and programmes for further alignment of reporting;

7. Urges UNDP to continue to align its results architecture with the Sustainable Development Goals framework, in coordination with other United Nations funds and programmes, to help measure performance in supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

8. Requests UNDP to include in its future annual reports information on the development context of countries while reporting on strategic plan outputs;

9. Welcomes the annual report of the Administrator on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy in 2016 and the achievements in this regard;

10. Expresses concern that UNDP is not meeting all its benchmarks for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective and encourages UNDP to take necessary corrective measures in this regard;
11. Notes that the inclusion of gender equality results and indicators in the present Strategic Plan and integrated results and resources framework, as well as the gender equality strategy, have been useful to advance UNDP work on gender equality and women’s empowerment, and requests UNDP to incorporate lessons learned from the implementation of the current gender equality strategy in the next strategic plan and integrated results and resources framework to further advance gender equality and women’s empowerment.

8 June 2017

2017/11
Cumulative review of the UNDP integrated budget, 2014-2017

The Executive Board


2. Recalls Executive Board decision 2015/16 which emphasized that regular resources are the bedrock of UNDP and essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its mandate and to carry out its work, and in this regard, encourages UNDP to further mobilize these resources while continuing to mobilize other resources to respond to the needs of all programme countries, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable;

3. Expresses concern about the negative effects of decreased funding, particularly on the UNDP capacity for programmatic activities, development effectiveness and provision of technical advisory services to country offices;

4. Emphasizes the need for UNDP to continue to improve transparency in the use of resources to achieve programme results and to enhance organizational effectiveness and efficiency and requests UNDP to present in its future financial planning and reports a higher level of detail on the way regular (core) resources are attributed and used, inter alia with regard to staff costs, programming arrangements, programmatic budget lines, oversight functions, development effectiveness and the special purpose activities budget line;

5. Acknowledges progress made by UNDP in cost alignment through implementation of the cost-recovery policy, notes that UNDP should make further progress and encourages UNDP contributors to adhere to the aspects of the cost-recovery policy approved by the Executive Board in decision 2013/9;

6. Recalls decision 2013/9 in which the Executive Board requested UNDP to recommend adjustments to the approved cost-recovery rates, as required, to be presented at the 2016 annual session of the Executive Board, notes that this process has been delayed and requests UNDP, together with UNFPA, UN-Women and UNICEF, to continue the consultations with Member States with regard to the cost-recovery policy and to present evidence-based proposals for harmonized cost-recovery policies of UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Women and UNICEF, with adjustments if required, for consideration by the respective Executive Boards no later than their annual sessions in 2018;

7. Recalls decision 2016/5 and requests UNDP to incorporate relevant lessons learned from the integrated budget, 2014-2017, inter alia with regard to results-based budgeting, in the preparation of the integrated budget for 2018-2021;
8. Requests that UNDP provide details on all relevant funding sources, including regular resources and, for informational purposes, other resources, in the development of the next integrated budget.

8 June 2017

2017/12
UNDP evaluation

The Executive Board

With regard to the annual report on evaluation, 2016 (document DP/2017/20):

1. Takes note of the summary and of the full annual report;

2. Requests UNDP to address the issues raised in the annual report and its UNDP management response;

3. Approves the 2017 proposed budget, requests that the Independent Evaluation Office budget reach 0.2 per cent of the UNDP budget, as stipulated in the UNDP evaluation policy, and approves the workplan for the Independent Evaluation Office for 2017;

4. Requests UNDP to further advance collaboration and joint evaluation work with other United Nations entities, especially United Nations funds and programmes;

5. Encourages UNDP management to work with the Independent Evaluation Office to continue its efforts to strengthen the quality and process of decentralized evaluations and to use the evaluations as learning and knowledge management tools to enhance future programmes;

With regard to the joint assessment of the institutional effectiveness of UNDP (document DP/2017/21) and the management response thereto (document DP/2017/22):

6. Takes note of the assessment, which is a collaborative joint effort of the Independent Evaluation Office and the Office of Audit and Investigations, its conclusions and recommendations, and the response from UNDP management;

7. Notes that the inclusion of organizational effectiveness and efficiency results and indicators in the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 and integrated results and resources framework has been useful to advance organizational effectiveness and efficiency and to inform the Executive Board on progress in this regard;

8. Requests UNDP to implement the recommendations of the assessment, taking into account its findings and conclusions, and to draw lessons learned when developing the strategic plan, 2018-2021, and to include effectiveness and efficiency results indicators in the plan and the integrated results and resources framework, 2018-2021, to ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation of programmes, especially at country level;

9. Requests that UNDP continue its efforts to improve organizational effectiveness and efficiency by: (a) utilizing theories of change to underpin programming; strengthening results-based reporting; strengthening learning and knowledge management; strengthening a culture of learning; and improving transparency and accountability throughout the organization at all levels; and (b) assessing staffing, capacities and resources at regional centres and hubs, including their financial sustainability, to optimize the working model and knowledge management between headquarters, regional and country levels;

With regard to the evaluation of the strategic plan to be presented to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2017,
11. Requests the Independent Evaluation Office to ensure the timely publication of the evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan, Global Programme and Regional Programmes, 2014-2017, in order for the evaluation to be considered by the Executive Board at the second regular session in September 2017, in the context of developing the new strategic plan;

12. Requests that UNDP build on lessons learned from the current Strategic Plan and Integrated Results and Resources Framework, 2014-2017, and the findings, conclusions and recommendations of relevant evaluations and the joint assessment of the institutional effectiveness of UNDP when developing the strategic plan and integrated results and resources framework, 2018 – 2021.

8 June 2017

2017/13

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in 2016;

2. Notes that the cumulative review of its strategic framework, 2014-2017, confirms the continued strong performance of UNCDF against set targets;

3. Notes however the negative impact of the shortfall in regular resources on the UNCDF country presence, innovation space, and capital investment flexibility;

4. Expresses concern that regular resources remain short of the $25 million per year target agreed in the strategic framework, and notes with concern that, as a result, the number of least developed countries (LDCs) supported by UNCDF is at risk of further decline;

5. Welcomes the steps taken to prepare the next UNCDF strategic framework, 2018-2021, in a consultative manner with the Board; and welcomes that as part of that process UNCDF has been developing results-to-resources scenarios to clarify the choices that can drive the UNCDF business and funding model in the future;

6. Calls on Member States in a position to do so to contribute to UNCDF regular resources to ensure that it can reach the target of $25 million per year in regular resources;

7. Recognizes the strategic positioning of UNCDF in the current financing for development landscape and the strong relevance of UNCDF innovations and 'last mile' finance models in catalysing additional resources into LDCs, and to this end encourages UNCDF to continue optimizing its financial toolbox through its effective use of grants, loans, and guarantees.

8 June 2017

2017/14
Annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director: progress made in implementing the strategic plan, 2014-2017

The Executive Board
1. Takes note of the documents that make up the report of the Executive Director, DP/FPA/2017/4 (Part I, Part I/Add.1 and Part II), including the relevant annexes available on the UNFPA website;

2. Notes with appreciation the progress achieved in implementing the results frameworks of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017;

3. Requests that UNFPA take into account the findings and conclusions of and build on and integrate lessons learned from the current strategic plan and integrated results and resources framework for 2014-2017, and the findings, conclusions and recommendations of relevant evaluations, including the evaluation of the architecture supporting the operationalization of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017, when developing the strategic plan and integrated results and resources framework for 2018-2021;

4. Requests UNFPA management to provide an oral update to the Executive Board, at its second regular session 2017, and also to report, at its annual session 2018, on the implementation of the seven recommendations of the evaluation of the architecture supporting the operationalization of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017;

5. Recognizes the inter-agency efforts made to harmonize the report methodology and format, and requests UNFPA to continue consultations with United Nations funds and programmes for further alignment of reporting;

6. Urges UNFPA to continue to align its results architecture with the Sustainable Development Goals framework, in coordination with other United Nations funds and programmes, to help measure performance in supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

7. Requests UNFPA to include in its future annual reports a more detailed analysis and reflection on the challenges and lessons learned per outcome area and on the collaboration and coordination within the United Nations system;

8. Encourages UNFPA in its future annual reports to include a more detailed analysis of the results achieved with regular (core) resources;

9. Expresses concern about the negative effects of decreased funding on achieving the outputs of the strategic plan, and, in this regard, requests UNFPA, to further explore incentives and mechanisms to encourage donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to increase and prioritize regular resources contributions to facilitate a shift to less restricted other resources, aligned to the strategic plan, and to broaden the donor base and attract new sources of funding, including through new approaches to resource mobilization and new forms of support from diversified sources;

10. Welcomes the different efficiency measures implemented by UNFPA management, and urges UNFPA to build on its efforts in this regard;

   In relation to the development of the integrated budget, 2018-2021:

11. Emphasizes the need for UNFPA to continue to improve transparency in the use of resources to achieve programme results and to enhance organizational effectiveness and efficiency, and requests UNFPA to present in its future financial planning and reports a higher level of detail on the way regular (core) resources are attributed and used;

12. Acknowledges progress made by UNFPA in cost alignment through implementation of the cost-recovery policy, notes that UNFPA should make further progress, and encourages UNFPA contributors to adhere to the aspects of the cost-recovery policy approved by the Executive Board in decision 2013/9;

13. Recalls decision 2013/9, in which the Executive Board requested UNFPA to recommend adjustments to the approved cost-recovery rates, as required, to be presented at the 2016 annual session of the Executive Board, notes that this process has been
delayed, and requests UNFPA, together with UNDP, UNICEF and UN-Women, to continue the consultations with Member States with regard to the cost-recovery policy and to present evidence-based proposals for harmonized cost-recovery policies of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women, with adjustments, if required, for consideration by the respective Executive Boards no later than their annual sessions in 2018.

8 June 2017

2017/15
UNFPA evaluation

The Executive Board
1. Takes note of the present report on the evaluation function at UNFPA (DP/FPA/2017/5);
2. Also takes note of the Evaluation Office workplan for 2017 (annex I);
3. Reaffirms the role played by the evaluation function at UNFPA and underscores the importance of high-quality independent evaluation evidence in supporting the new UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021, and contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
4. Encourages UNFPA management to work with the Evaluation Office to continue its efforts to strengthen the implementation rate and coverage of decentralized evaluations and to use the evaluations as learning and knowledge management tools to enhance future programmes;
5. Requests UNFPA to further advance collaboration and joint evaluation work with other United Nations entities, especially United Nations funds and programmes;
6. Also requests the Evaluation Office to present a revision of the current quadrennial evaluation plan, focusing on the remaining period (2018-2019), and propose the inclusion of 2020-2021 in the plan, aligning it with the forthcoming UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021;
7. Further requests a report on the state of the evaluation function at UNFPA in 2018.

8 June 2017

2017/16
Annual report of the UNOPS Executive Director

The Executive Board
1. Recognizes the contributions of UNOPS to the operational results of Governments, the United Nations and other partners in 2016, through efficient management support services and effective specialized technical expertise, expanding the implementation capacity for sustainable development;
2. Takes note of the progress made in advancing the potential for facilitating partnerships for social impact investments in the areas of the UNOPS mandate;
3. Acknowledges efforts made to enhance reporting on the contributions of UNOPS to partners’ sustainable results, including the pursuit of best practices and recognized standards;
4. Welcomes the progress made in implementing the UNOPS strategic plan, 2014-2017, as calibrated through the midterm review, which reconfirms the viability of its
unique demand-driven business model and establishes strong foundations for UNOPS to support Member States’ achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

5. Also welcomes the UNOPS annual report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and the considerable progress made in implementing recommendations of relevance to UNOPS.

8 June 2017

2017/17

Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the progress of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in addressing audit-related management issues in 2016;

2. Notes the efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations from previous reports, and calls for further improvement;

3. Recalls decision 2016/13, in which the Board expressed concern about recurring weaknesses for both UNDP and UNFPA related to programme management, procurement, governance and financial management, notes that similar challenges have been identified in the 2016 reports, and underscores the urgent need to intensify efforts to address these issues;

4. Takes note with concern of the ‘partially satisfactory’ rating for 2016 in the opinions on the governance, risk management and control frameworks of UNDP and UNFPA, and urges UNDP and UNFPA to prioritize action to address the findings and recommendations on their respective governance, risk management and control frameworks;

   With regard to UNDP:

5. Takes note of the report on internal audit and investigations (DP/2017/26);

6. Takes note with appreciation of the annual report of the Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee;

7. Requests management to continue to strengthen the internal audit and investigation oversight of UNDP in all areas, including procurement, programme management, financial management and fraud detection;

8. Expresses particular concern that weaknesses in procurement management have become a recurring issue in the audit reports, and expects UNDP to rectify this in a more thorough and strategic manner;

9. Welcomes the establishment by UNDP of a cross-functional task force to increase the rate of recovery of defrauded assets and the improvement in recovery of funds, and urges UNDP to further its efforts in this matter;

10. Requests management to provide regular updates on recovery of assets, including recovery trends, to the Executive Board at its annual session;

   With regard to UNFPA:

11. Takes note of the report on internal audit and investigation activities of the UNFPA Office of Audit and Investigation Services (DP/FPA/2017/6), the opinion, based on the scope of work undertaken, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNFPA framework of governance, risk management and control (DP/FPA/2017/6/Add.1), the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee (DP/FPA/2017/6/Add.2), and the management response (DP/FPA/2017/CRP.4) thereto and to the present report;
12. Expresses its continuing support for the audit and investigation functions at UNFPA, and for the provision of appropriate and sufficient resources to discharge their mandate, including by filling all vacancies in the Office of Audit and Investigation Services with competent personnel;

13. Notes the Audit Advisory Committee’s concern regarding delays in the audit process, and urges UNFPA management to facilitate the audit process in a timely manner;

14. Acknowledges and supports the engagement of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services in joint audit and investigation activities;

With regard to UNOPS:

15. Takes note of the annual report of the Internal Audit and Investigations Group for 2016 and the management response thereto;

16. Takes note of the progress made in implementation of audit recommendations, including those that are more than 18 months old;

17. Takes note of the opinion, based on the scope of work undertaken, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organization’s framework of governance, risk management and control (in line with Executive Board decision 2015/13);

18. Takes note of the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2016 (in line with Executive Board decision 2008/37).

8 June 2017

2017/18
Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS (DP/2017/27, DP/FPA/2017/7 and DP/OPS/2017/4);

2. Urges UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to provide adequate resources to their ethics offices to ensure that they can carry out their work effectively;

3. Encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS and their respective ethics offices to continue efforts to ensure that ethics remains a guiding force in their business operations;

With regard to UNDP:

4. Notes the progress made by the UNDP Ethics Office in strengthening the ethical culture in UNDP, including training, raising ethics awareness and protection against retaliation;

5. Further notes the successful implementation in 2016 of all prior open UNDP Ethics Office management recommendations and the overall improvement in responses to ethics-related questions in the latest UNDP general staff survey;

With regard to UNFPA:

6. Notes the progress of the work of the UNFPA Ethics Office, and takes note of its recommendations made to management.

8 June 2017
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2017

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2017, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for its annual session 2017 (DP/2017/L.2);

Approved the report of the first regular session 2017 (DP/2017/13);

Approved the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2017;

Adopted decision 2017/9 in which it decided to convene a special session in November 2017 for the purpose of considering and adopting the UNDP strategic plan and integrated budget for the period 2018-2021;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2017:

Second regular session: 5 to 11 September 2017
Special session: November 2017.

UNDP segment

Item 2
Annual report of the Administrator


Item 3
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters


Item 4
UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021

Heard presentations and commented on the zero draft of the strategic plan (DP/2017/CRP.2) and integrated results and resources framework for 2018-2021.

Item 5
Gender equality at UNDP

 Took note of the annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy in 2016 (DP/2017/18).

Item 6
Human Development Report

Took note of the update on the Human Development Report consultations.

Item 7
Country programmes and related matters
Approved the following country programme in accordance with decision 2014/7: Cameroon (DP/DCP/CMR/3);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Lesotho and Liberia, already approved by the Administrator (DP/2017/19);

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi (DP/2017/19).
Item 8
Evaluation
Adopted decision 2017/12 on the annual report on evaluation, 2016 and the joint assessment of the institutional effectiveness of UNDP and management response.

Item 9
United Nations Capital Development Fund

UNFPA segment

Item 10
Annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director

Item 11
UNFPA evaluation
Adopted decision 2017/15 on UNFPA evaluation.

Item 12
UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021
Heard presentations and commented on the draft UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021 (DP/FPA/2017/CRP.6) and related annexes.

Item 13
UNFPA country programmes and related matters
Approved, in accordance with decision 2014/7, the UNFPA country programme for Cameroon (DP/FPA/CPD/CMR/7);
Took note of the one-year extension for the UNFPA country programme for Nicaragua (DP/FPA/2017/8).

UNOPS segment

Item 14
United Nations Office for Project Services
Adopted decision 2017/16 on the annual report of the Executive Director.

Joint segment

Item 15
Internal audit and oversight
Adopted decision 2017/17 on the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations.
Item 16
Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

Adopted decision 2017/18 on the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Also held the following briefings, informal consultations and special events:

**UNDP**

Briefing on the preliminary findings and conclusions of the evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, and Global and Regional Programmes, and preliminary management response;

Briefing on the early findings of the evaluation of the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) strategic framework 2014-2017 results, and the UNV strategic framework, 2018-2021;

Briefing on the UNCDF strategic framework, 2018-2021;

Informal consultation on the UNDP integrated budget, 2018-2021;

**UNFPA**

Tribute to the late Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA;

Informal consultation on the UNFPA integrated budget, 2018-2021.
## TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2017
(5 – 11 September 2017, New York)

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<td><strong>STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE</strong></td>
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<td>• Annual review of the financial situation, 2016, including information on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2017 and onwards, and update on financing strategy, including expansion of the donor base, private sector funding, partnerships and use of innovative financing</td>
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<td>• Report on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2017 and future years</td>
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<td>• UNOPS strategic plan, 2018-2021</td>
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<td>• UNOPS biennial budget estimates, 2018-2019</td>
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<td>• Report of the ACABQ on the UNOPS biennial budget estimates, 2018-2019</td>
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<td>• Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations 2016</td>
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<td>UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</td>
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<td>• Presentation and approval of country programme documents</td>
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<td>• Extensions of country programmes</td>
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<td>5:45 – 6 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Informal consultations on draft decisions</td>
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<th>Monday, 11 September</th>
<th>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</th>
<th><strong>UNDP segment (cont’d)</strong></th>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</td>
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<td>3 - 6 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Joint segment</strong></td>
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<td>FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Report of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on joint procurement activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FOLLOW-UP TO UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETING</td>
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<td>• Joint UNDP/UNFPA report on follow-up to recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>FIELD VISITS</td>
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<td>• Report on the joint field visit to Nepal</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>OTHER MATTERS</td>
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<td>• Address by the Chairperson of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/UN-Women Staff Council</td>
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<td>• Adoption of pending decisions</td>
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<td>ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</td>
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<td>• Draft annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2018</td>
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<td>• Adoption of the tentative workplan for the first regular session 2018</td>
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