United Nations DP/2023/25



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

Distr.: General 29 June 2023

Original: English

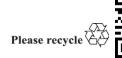
Second regular session 2023 28 to 31 August 2023, New York Item 1 of the provisional agenda Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2023

Contents

Annual session 2023 (5 to 9 June 2023)

	Page
Update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system	2
Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations, and management responses	3
Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS	5
Joint update on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment	5
Report of the UNDP Administrator on results for 2022 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025	6
UNDP evaluation	7
Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2022	8
United Nations Volunteers programme: Annual report of the Administrator	9
UNFPA: Annual report of the Executive Director	9
UNFPA evaluation	10
Early midterm review of the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Executive Director for 2022, and UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, restated	10
Comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews on UNOPS	11
UNOPS distribution to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, of excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021	12
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2023	13
	Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations, and management responses. Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS Joint update on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment Report of the UNDP Administrator on results for 2022 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. UNDP evaluation Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2022 United Nations Volunteers programme: Annual report of the Administrator. UNFPA: Annual report of the Executive Director. UNFPA evaluation Early midterm review of the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, including the annual report of the Executive Director for 2022, and UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, restated Comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews on UNOPS. UNOPS distribution to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, of excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021





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

The Executive Board

- 1. Welcomes 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;
- 2. Welcomes the commitment of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to the United Nations development system repositioning and encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to work closely with other United Nations development system entities, under the leadership of the resident coordinators in the country, to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and national plans, needs and priorities;
- 3. Recalls its decision 2022/14 and requests 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 United Nations development system in implementing related mandates;
- 4. Calls on UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to strengthen efforts to implement the Management and Accountability Framework, notes the evolving nature of the Framework and calls on the organizations to share their experiences in implementing the Framework at all levels;
- 5. Recalls decision 2022/14 and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to include contributions of representatives at the country level and regional directors to the implementation of United Nations development system reform within existing reporting;
- 6. Requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to report annually on the complete United Nations development system reform checklist as an annex to existing reporting on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system;
- 7. Also requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to strive for inter-agency harmonization of reporting on implementation efforts and results of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including improved delivery of development programming at the country level:
- 8. Recalls decision 2022/14, stresses the importance of integrated solutions to address complex, multi-faceted challenges impacting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to strengthen collaboration in joint analysis, needs assessments, planning, including collective outcomes, and programme delivery, and update the Board within existing reporting mechanisms;
- 9. Further requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to update the Executive Board annually on their implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and to include this as an item for decision during the annual session.

9 June 2023

Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation, and management responses

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the reports of the respective audit and investigation offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS (DP/2023/12; DP/FPA/2023/6; DP/OPS/2023/3), which have been harmonized with those of UNICEF and UN-Women, in line with Executive Board decision 2020/10, and the reports of the respective audit committees as well as the management responses hereto:
- 2. Takes note of the opinions of the audit and investigation functions on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and internal control elements of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS;
- 3. Expresses its continuing support for the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS and reiterates the importance of their full independence and direct access to the Executive Board;
- 4. Commends UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on their high rate of implementation of audit recommendations, and encourages ongoing focus on timely implementation and closure of recommendations;
- 5. Recalls decision 2022/22, paragraph 3, reiterates the importance of the full independence of the internal audit and investigation offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, and reaffirms the current practice that the offices comply with the standards of the International Professional Practice Framework by the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Uniform Principles and Guidelines for Investigation;
- 6. Requests that the audit and investigation offices proactively organize closed briefings to the Executive Board to share the annual workplan, the consolidated risk assessment and any updates and concerns related to budget and staffing;
- 7. Recalls decisions 2022/15 and 2022/22 on more regular closed briefings with audit and investigation offices on potential red flags, emerging risks and control issues, audit findings and the status of investigations, with due regard to confidentiality and privacy;
- 8. Requests the audit and investigation offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to further improve their reports by including substantive analysis of findings and providing an overview of strategic and systemic issues and trends in a dedicated section, and requests the audit and investigation offices to undertake a proactive approach in high-risk areas that are susceptible to fraud, corruption and other wrongdoing and to include a section on that topic in their annual reports;
- 9. Requests the UNDP Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee, the UNFPA Oversight Advisory Committee and the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee to present their annual reports and key considerations to the Executive Board at the annual session, and encourages the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to consider gender balance and geographical representation in the composition of the committee membership;

23-12555 3/17

10. Recalls Executive Board decision 2022/22 on the self-assessment of the independence of the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigation (OAI), the UNFPA Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIS) and the UNOPS Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG), requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to update the Executive Board in writing, at the second regular session 2023, on the status of implementation of the recommendations included in the self-assessment of the independence of the audit and investigation offices, and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to provide explanations for any recommendations that have not been fully implemented or agreed to by management;

With regard to UNDP:

- 11. Takes note of the continued high number of audit recommendations related to programme management, procurement and financial management, including management of implementing partners, and encourages UNDP to take continued steps to address recurring recommendations;
- 12. Requests OAI to share with the Executive Board its implementation plan for the recommendations made by the Institute for Internal Auditors in the 2022 external quality assessment, following decision 2022/15, and report on progress on implementation;

With regard to UNFPA:

- 13. Notes with concern the increasing backlog of investigation cases, and requests OAIS to continue streamlining investigation procedures and to address the reduction of cases as a matter of high priority;
- 14. Recognizes the efforts of OAIS and UNFPA management in implementing the recommendations contained in the self-assessment by OAIS of its independence, as requested in Executive Board decision 2022/22;

With regard to UNOPS:

- 15. Takes note of IAIG compliance with international standards, as confirmed in an external quality assessment of its audit function;
- 16. Welcomes the progress made in strengthening IAIG and encourages UNOPS management to further ensure the independence of IAIG and to equip IAIG with all necessary resources to adequately perform its mandate;
- 17. *Urges* UNOPS management to take all necessary measures to address the overall opinion of IAIG that the adequacy and effectiveness of UNOPS governance, risk management and control processes were only partially satisfactory with major improvement needed;
- 18. Further urges UNOPS management to take all necessary measures to address the reoccurring key audit findings on grant management, project expenditure, procurement, human resources and recruitment;
- 19. *Notes with concern* that there are still limitations to the independence of IAIG;
- 20. Recalls decision 22/2022, paragraph 15, and reiterates to management the importance of UNOPS continuing to change and strengthen its organizational culture with regard to transparency, accountability, ethics and integrity;
- 21. Takes note of the revised terms of reference of the Audit Advisory Committee.

9 June 2023

Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, and management responses

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS for 2022 (DP/2023/13; DP/FPA/2023/3; DP/OPS/2023/4), and the management responses;
- 2. Commends the important work of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS ethics offices in strengthening an ethical organizational culture, and encourages them to continue their work in full independence;
- 3. Requests the ethics offices of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to strengthen the whistle-blower protection procedures and policies of their respective organizations to meet the standards of the best international practices, including protection from retaliation, and to provide annual updates to the Board on these efforts within existing reporting;

With regard to UNOPS:

- 4. Welcomes the completion of the external independent review on the UNOPS ethics function to ensure its independence and impartiality and takes note of the report on the findings of the review and encourages UNOPS to implement the recommendations;
- 5. *Urges* the Ethics Office and IAIG to review its procedures and design them in a manner that ensures full confidentiality.

9 June 2023

2023/9

Joint update on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the updates by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment;
- 2. Notes with appreciation, recalling Executive Board decision 2022/2, the progress made and the need for continued effort to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as part of the "zero tolerance for inaction" approach, including ensuring that the required actions implemented at country, regional and global levels are properly resourced and deliver impact;
- 3. Requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to take action to ensure a victim/survivor-centred, system-wide and coherent approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, while leveraging their respective mandates, and to continue to foster inclusive and respectful organizational cultures where all personnel are empowered and encouraged to report sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;
- 4. Encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in this regard to continue to report to the Executive Board about all cases in a transparent and accountable manner, to ensure that reporting mechanisms are safe, inclusive and victim/survivor-centred, and to strengthen their efforts in whistle-blower protection against retaliation;

23-12555 5/17

- 5. Requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to develop a more uniform template for future reports on this topic, to be shared with the Executive Board, to better track year-on-year progress against indicators, allow for enhanced comparison of reports and gain a more strategic understanding of the results, impact and organizational culture change achieved from their efforts and activities;
- 6. Also encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to further increase their system-wide collaboration efforts to improve coordination, reporting and transparency and to work together effectively at country, regional and global levels to ensure optimal learning from lessons learned and best practices from the entire United Nations system;
- 7. Welcomes the continued use of ClearCheck, and invites UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to examine how ClearCheck and the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme can be used to complement each other to further improve vetting and to provide an update to the Board;
- 8. Further encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to consider piloting the scheme and report any results within existing reporting;
- 9. Notes with appreciation the efforts of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to conduct risk assessments in respect of sexual exploitation and abuse, to work with implementing partners to assess and support their capacity to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and to address the rights of victims/survivors to support and assistance, in accordance with the United Nations protocol on the provision of assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

2023/10

Report of the UNDP Administrator on results for 2022 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the annual report of the Administrator for 2022 and its annexes (DP/2023/14), 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 continuing progress made by UNDP in 2022, the first year of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, towards becoming a fully agile, innovative and resilient organization capable of providing effective local and global integrated solutions that advance sustainable development, particularly in the face of the global reversal of human development for two years running;
- 3. Takes note of the programmatic and institutional results achieved in 2022 on poverty and inequality, innovative development financing, digitalization, climate action, social protection, and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, while also noting the need to scale up efforts for economic empowerment for all;
- 4. Recognizes the overarching role of UNDP in poverty eradication and reducing inequalities, and 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 2022, UNDP achieved its highest-ever level of programme delivery, meeting 95 per cent of planned programmatic targets for the year and reaching tens of millions of people, including those left furthest behind;
- 6. Expresses concern with the current low level and continued decline of regular (core) resources, as these are critical for UNDP to deliver on the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, respond to the effects of multiple crises, help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and maintain robust internal control and accountability systems;
- 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, based on each agency's respective comparative advantages and mandates, under the coordination of the resident coordinators in country, to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and national development needs, plans and priorities;
- 8. Recognizes the ambitious targets set out in the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and urges continued commitment to: results-based programmes; results-driven, cohesive portfolio approaches; agile, effective and efficient operations; and multi-stakeholder partnerships that can help to unlock systemic transformation towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2023/11

UNDP evaluation

The Executive Board

With regard to the annual report on evaluation, 2022 (DP/2023/16) and management commentaries:

- 1. Takes note of the annual report on evaluation and the management commentaries thereon, welcomes the analysis provided on key findings and lessons learned from evaluations carried out in 2022, and requests that UNDP address the issues raised;
- 2. Takes note of the efforts of UNDP management and the Independent Evaluation Office to improve the quality and coverage of decentralized evaluations, and requests UNDP management to: (a) work with the Independent Evaluation Office to strengthen guidance on reporting expenditures for decentralized evaluations; (b) promote a mix of project, outcome and portfolio evaluations to assess results and impact; and (c) step up efforts to further improve the quality of decentralized evaluations at UNDP;
- 3. Encourages the Independent Evaluation Office to: (a) continue investing in innovative inter-agency practices, including artificial intelligence and leadership of evaluative syntheses of achievements against the Sustainable Development Goals; and (b) ensure full coverage of independent country programme evaluations in a timely manner to inform the design of new country programmes;

With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to social protection (DP/2023/17) and management response (DP/2023/18):

4. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to social protection and the management response thereon;

23-12555 7/17

- 5. Welcomes the evaluation as the first dedicated global assessment by the Independent Evaluation Office on UNDP support to social protection, and encourages UNDP and its partners to use the evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations, while noting the programmatic areas identified for consolidation and strengthening;
- 6. Requests UNDP to explore the convergence between social protection and programmes in other areas and to strengthen the connection between social protection and just and green transition, as well as the linkages between humanitarian assistance and national social protection systems at the country level;
- 7. Requests UNDP to continue strengthening its support to digitalization for social protection and to gender-responsive social protection;
- 8. Encourages UNDP to provide practical guidance for strategic positioning in different country contexts and explore partnerships to allow a more holistic and integrated approach in supporting national social protection systems;

With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to access to justice (DP/2023/19) and management response (DP/2023/20):

- 9. Takes note of the evaluation of UNDP support to access to justice and the management response thereon;
- 10. Welcomes the evaluation as the first dedicated global assessment by the Independent Evaluation Office on access to justice, and encourages UNDP and its partners to use the evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations to inform future work by UNDP in this area;
- 11. Acknowledges the results achieved by UNDP in promoting access to justice, especially for those furthest behind;
- 12. Encourages UNDP to enhance its capacities as a provider of technical assistance on access to justice, and reinforce the dialogue with other United Nations stakeholders and bilateral partners to address persistent challenges to access to justice;
- 13. *Urges* UNDP to continue to strengthen the use of monitoring, evaluation and evidence in programming to promote a fuller understanding of its contribution to effective, people-centred and fair justice processes;
- 14. *Invites* UNDP to continue to promote rights-based, people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented approaches to digitization, and to strengthen synergies between justice programmes and other areas of work.

9 June 2023

2023/12

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

The Executive Board

- 1. Commends the progress made by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in implementing its strategic framework, 2022-2025;
- 2. Reaffirms its commitment to the UNCDF strategic framework and the position and role it sets for the organization within the United Nations development system, and requests UNCDF to provide the Executive Board with an informal briefing on developments within the organization no later than the second regular session in 2023;

- 3. Emphasizes the critical role of UNCDF in delivering innovative and blended financing solutions to support least developed countries to deliver on the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 4. Encourages UNCDF to engage with the broader United Nations development system to allow the system to benefit from the comparative advantages and expertise of UNCDF, and vice versa;
- 5. Expresses concern with the current low level and decline of regular (core) resources to UNCDF, noting the importance of regular resources to the implementation of the strategic framework, 2022-2025, and the provision of required levels of oversight;
- 6. Recommits to supporting UNCDF, including by fully funding, as a minimum, base growth resource requirements in accordance with the strategic framework, 2022-2025, of \$25 million per year in regular resources and \$125 million in other resources.

2023/13

United Nations Volunteers programme: Annual report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

- 1. Commends the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) for results achieved in 2022, as reflected in the report of the Administrator (DP/2023/23);
- 2. Reaffirms the continued crucial role of the Special Voluntary Fund in promoting volunteerism as powerful means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon all development partners in a position to do so to contribute to the fund;
- 3. Expresses appreciation to all United Nations Volunteers for their outstanding contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- 4. *Expresses* appreciation to UNV for its rapid and dedicated response to emergencies, as part of United Nations system-wide efforts.

9 June 2023

2023/14

UNFPA: Annual report of the Executive Director

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director: progress on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 [DP/FPA/2023/4 (Part I)], and its annexes; the statistical and financial review, 2022 [DP/FPA/2023/4 (Part I/Add.1)]; and the report of UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2022 [DP/FPA/2023/4 (Part II)];
- 2. Notes with appreciation the progress made by UNFPA in achieving the results of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, during the first year of its implementation;
- 3. Takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in UNFPA (JIU/REP/2023/1);

23-12555 **9/17**

- 4. *Notes* that this report could provide additional context for the assessment by the Unit (initiated by decision 2022/22, paragraph 9) on how the Executive Board executes its oversight and governance functions;
- 5. Also notes the need for further consideration by the Executive Board of the recommendations from the Unit's review of management and administration in UNFPA, including those addressed to the Executive Board:
- 6. Requests UNFPA to report to the Executive Board on the risks, costs, status and functions associated with the information and communications technology transformation project by the second regular session in 2023, and thereafter annually, through existing reporting.

2023/15

UNFPA evaluation

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the annual report on the evaluation function and of the programme of work and budget of the Evaluation Office in 2023;
- 2. Welcomes the achievements across the evaluation performance indicators and the continued adaptability and responsiveness of the evaluation function to local contexts and new and emerging global challenges;
- 3. Welcomes the achievements in contributing to United Nations systemwide evaluation efforts and in fostering national evaluation capacity development;
- 4. *Welcomes* the update of the peer review of the evaluation function, which will inform the revision of the evaluation policy;
- 5. Requests the Evaluation Office to present a revised evaluation policy for endorsement by the Executive Board during the first regular session in 2024;
- 6. Encourages UNFPA to continue to enhance the capacity of the decentralized evaluation function and humanitarian evaluations and to increase investments in the evaluation function.

9 June 2023

2023/16

Early midterm review of the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Executive Director for 2022; UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, restated

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the fast-tracked midterm review of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Executive Director, 2022, (DP/OPS/2023/5) presented in accordance with decisions 2022/24 and 2023/4, and based on the format presented at the second regular session 2022;
- 2. Recognizes that the midterm review was informed based on comprehensive internal and external consultation; and analysis of performance, including an external evaluation with case studies of how projects implemented contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 3, 7 and 13;

- 3. Endorses the restated UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, (DP/OPS/2023/6) presented in accordance with decisions 2022/24 and 2023/4;
- 4. *Notes that* the strategic plan, as the overall strategic framework for UNOPS, is not intergovernmentally negotiated, and acknowledges that the strategic plan includes some references to terms, concepts and documents that have not been intergovernmentally endorsed in the United Nations system;
- 5. Welcomes the inclusion of UNOPS non-programmatic mandate as a service provider in the restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, confirming the return to its original mandate of providing infrastructure, procurement and project management services, as stated in General Assembly resolution 65/176 of 20 December 2010;
- 6. Encourages UNOPS to continue and consolidate systematic analysis and reporting to the Executive Board on the contributions of its service delivery to the operational results of partners, the expansion of partners' implementation capacity and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
- 7. Acknowledges the potential for a mutually reinforcing relationship between procurement and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and directs UNOPS to continue to undertake procurement activities in line with its financial regulations and rules, giving due consideration to the principles of best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, effective competition and the best interests of UNOPS and its clients;
- 8. *Notes* with concern the decline in procurement from local suppliers in 2022 and requests UNOPS to strengthen efforts to support local capacity development through engagement with suppliers in local supply chains, in line with the UNOPS financial regulations and rules.

2023/17

Comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews of UNOPS

The Executive Board

- 1. Acknowledges the progress made by UNOPS in implementing the comprehensive response plan in response to the third-party reviews of UNOPS;
- 2. Notes with appreciation the monthly update briefings provided to the Executive Board by the UNOPS Executive Director and the online monitoring tool to increase transparency;
- 3. Recalls decision 2023/4, paragraph 11, and reiterates the request that UNOPS extend the monthly briefing until the first regular session in 2024;
- 4. *Decides* to also incorporate the comprehensive response plan reporting into the regular reporting cycle of the strategic plan;
- 5. Recalls decision 2023/1, paragraph 11, and requests UNOPS to provide the Executive Board with its plan to implement the decision in advance of the second regular session 2023.

9 June 2023

23-12555 11/17

UNOPS distribution to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, of excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the conference room paper on UNOPS cost-recovery model and reserves (DP/OPS/2023/CRP.5);
- 2. Welcomes UNOPS commitment to target zero net revenue and directs UNOPS to proceed with the return of any excess reserves, in accordance with this decision;
- 3. Recalls decision 2022/13 to freeze all transfers out of the operational reserve for any purpose other than daily operations;
- 4. Recalls decision 2023/4 and reiterates that:
 - (a) All necessary organizational investment requirements and other expenses required to keep UNOPS fit-for-purpose be included in the financial biennium that is approved by the Executive Board;
 - (b) UNOPS sets its fees to ensure that it has the financial means required to maintain the minimum operational reserve level and make any organizational investment, as per the biennial budget estimates, while eliminating any accumulation of reserves over and above the minimum operational reserve;
 - (c) Excess reserves are defined as total accumulated reserves minus the minimum operational reserve, as established by the Executive Board in its decision 2021/21;
- 5. Recalls decision 2023/4 on reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021 and in this regard:
 - (a) Recognizes the ongoing process by UNOPS of distributing without delay these excess reserves to paying entities;
 - (b) Requests UNOPS to make a good faith effort over a maximum of 12 months to distribute all these excess reserves to paying entities, after which UNOPS will propose to the Executive Board at the first regular session of 2024 an alternative use for undisbursed funds, within the United Nations system and/or to replenish the UNOPS minimum operational reserve;
- 6. Notes the upcoming third-party independent review of the distribution of excess reserves and requests an update on the findings and recommendations during the monthly update briefings;

For all excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021:

- 7. Requests UNOPS to propose to the Executive Board for approval at every second regular session at which the UNOPS biennial budget is considered, starting in 2023, a fair and transparent methodology, and time frame for distributing, within 12 months following the receipt of report of the United Nations Board of Auditors, any excess reserves accumulated in the relevant budget cycle to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, to be presented to the Executive Board in an informal session prior to those second regular sessions;
- 8. Requests UNOPS to make a good faith effort to distribute all excess reserves and propose to the Executive Board for approval an alternative use for the undisbursed funds;

9. Requests UNOPS to report to the Executive Board at every session the status of the distribution of excess reserves to paying entities, including undisbursed funds.

9 June 2023

2023/19

Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2023

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2023, it:

Item 1

Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda (DP/2023/L.2) and approved the workplan for the annual session 2023;

Adopted the report of the first regular session 2023 (DP/2023/10);

Adopted the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2023;

Joint segment

Item 2

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

Adopted decision 2023/6 on the update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system;

Item 3

Internal audit and investigation

Adopted decision 2023/7 on the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation, and management responses;

Item 4

Ethics

Adopted decision 2023/8 on the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS;

Item 5

Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

Adopted decision 2023/9 on the joint update on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;

UNDP segment

Item 6

Annual report of the Administrator

Adopted decision 2023/10 on the report of the UNDP Administrator on results for 2022 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;

Held an interactive discussion with the Administrator on the subject, "Development Pathways Out of Crises Today: UNDP Support to Advancing National Development Choices for Tomorrow";

23-12555 **13/17**

Item 7

Gender equality at UNDP

Took note of the annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2022-2025 (DP/2023/15);

Item 8

UNDP evaluation

Adopted decision 2023/11 on UNDP evaluation;

Item 9

UNDP country programmes and related matters

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

Latin America and the Caribbean region: Chile (DP/DCP/CHL/6);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Namibia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, already approved by the Administrator and presented in document DP/2023/21;

Item 10

United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2023/12 on the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2022;

Item 11

United Nations Volunteers programme

Adopted decision 2023/13 on the United Nations Volunteers programme: annual report of the Administrator;

UNFPA segment

Item 12

Annual report of the Executive Director

Adopted decision 2023/14 on the report of the Executive Director;

Held an interactive dialogue with the Executive Director on the topic, "Demographic Resilience in a World of 8 Billion";

Item 13

UNFPA evaluation

Adopted decision 2023/15 on UNFPA evaluation;

Item 14

UNFPA country programmes and related matters

Took note of the first-time extension of the country programme for Namibia, approved by the Executive Director, as presented in document DP/FPA/2023/7;

Approved the fourth extension of the country programme for Libya, as presented in document DP/FPA/2023/7;

UNOPS segment

Item 15

Annual report of the UNOPS Executive Director

Adopted decision 2023/16 on the early midterm review of the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Executive Director for 2022, and UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, restated;

Adopted decision 2023/17 on the comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews of UNOPS;

Adopted decision 2023/18 on UNOPS distribution to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, of excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021.

9 June 2023

23-12555 **15/17**

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2023

(28 August – 31 August 2023, New York)

Day/date	Time	Item	Subject
Monday, 28 August	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session • Adoption of the report of the annual session 2023 • Draft workplan of the Executive Board for 2024
			UNFPA SEGMENT
			STATEMENT BY THE UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
	3 – 6 p.m.	4	UNFPA STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE • Report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue 2022-2023
		5	 UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS Presentation and approval of country programme documents Extensions of country programmes
Tuesday, 29 August	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		UNOPS SEGMENT STATEMENT BY THE UNOPS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
	3 – 5 p.m.	6	 UNOPS SEGMENT (con't) UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES UNOPS budget estimates for the biennium 2024-2025 Report of the ACABQ on the UNOPS budget estimates for the biennium 2024-2025 Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2022
Wednesday , 30 August	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR
	3 – 5 p.m.	2	 UNDP STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE Structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 Annual review of the financial situation of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, 2022
Thursday, 31 August	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3	UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd) UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes

3 – 5 p.m.	7	OTHER MATTERS
		Adoption of decisions
	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS Draft annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2024
		Adoption of the tentative workplan for the first regular session 2024
		Closing of the session

23-12555