



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

Distr.: General  
15 February 2021

Original: English

**Annual session 2021**

7 to 11 June 2021, New York

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Organizational matters**

**Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular  
session 2021**

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**First regular session 2021  
(1 to 4 February 2021)**

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**2021/1**

**Reports of UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2019**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the unqualified audit opinions on UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2019;

2. *Calls upon* UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS to harmonize further their reporting formats on the implementation of the Board of Auditors recommendations, including, where possible, the time frames for their detailed reporting and the categorization of recommendations into those that are priority, and any other priorities;

*With regard to UNDP:*

3. *Notes* the progress made by UNDP in addressing the top seven audit-related priorities in 2018-2019;

4. *Endorses* the suggested top seven audit-related management priorities for the biennium 2020-2021;

5. *Acknowledges* the progress achieved by UNDP in the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2019, strongly encourages UNDP to continue implementing the recommendations, as well as the remaining recommendations from prior years, for closure, and requests UNDP to include the impacts of implemented recommendations, including on organizational culture, in its reporting on audit recommendations;

6. *Takes note* of the observations by the Boards of Auditors relating to fraud risk management, and encourages UNDP to continue with its organization-specific anti-fraud strategy and advance the implementation of the fraud risk management action plan;

7. *Encourages* UNDP to coordinate its actions in response to the Board of Auditors recommendations with its actions to address the Office of Audit and Investigations audit entitled “Performance Audit of UNDP Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Management”;

*With regard to UNCDF:*

8. *Supports* the ongoing efforts of UNCDF in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2019;

*With regard to UNFPA:*

9. *Acknowledges* the progress achieved by UNFPA in the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period ended on 31 December 2019, welcomes the further measures planned by the organization, and strongly encourages UNFPA to continue implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors from prior years for closure;

10. *Looks forward to* the UNFPA enterprise risk management policy in 2021 and to the enterprise resource planning system in 2022 to support the implementation and closing of outstanding recommendations;

*With regard to UNOPS:*

11. *Acknowledges* the progress UNOPS has achieved in the implementation of recommendations of the Board of Auditors made for the year ended 31 December 2019, encourages UNOPS to continue their efforts in implementing the recommendations, and looks forward to the next report on implementation.

4 February 2021

## **2021/2**

### **UNDP evaluation**

*The Executive Board*

*With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to climate change adaptation (DP/2021/6), and management response thereto (DP/2021/7):*

1. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to climate change adaptation and the management response thereto;
2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the evaluation's findings and conclusions acknowledging the significant role and contribution of UNDP in supporting countries in their climate change adaptation efforts, while noting areas for further strengthening and acceleration;
3. *Requests* UNDP to accelerate its attention to climate risks across its development portfolio, reduce fragmentation across its climate change adaptation programming through continued investments in integrated and programmatic approaches, and expand its adaptation support in small island developing States;
4. *Further requests* UNDP to consider the evaluation recommendations relating to the need to strengthen capacities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) for adaptation, including through its forthcoming resilient recovery offer under DRR, which will integrate sustainable adaptive considerations, linked to the UNDP climate change adaptation offer, scale up innovative approaches for private sector engagement and strengthening gender equality in its policy and capacity-related support in adaptation-related programming;

*With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to conflict-affected countries (DP/2021/8) and the management response thereto (DP/2021/9):*

5. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to conflict-affected countries and the management response thereto;
6. *Takes note* of the evaluation's findings and conclusions acknowledging, among others, the contribution of UNDP to sustainable development, governance and peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries, while noting areas for further strengthening;
7. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNDP to strengthen partnerships within and outside of the United Nations system, as well as monitoring, evaluation and learning of programmes;
8. *Recognizes* the UNDP contribution to conflict prevention, encourages UNDP to enhance its support to conflict prevention through its development work, and in this regard recalls decision 2017/30;
9. *Encourages* UNDP to continue to ensure that its programming efforts are risk-informed and anchored locally, in particular in conflict-affected countries;

10. *Takes note* of the forthcoming development by UNDP of a ‘framework for crisis and fragility’, taking into account the evaluation findings and management response, and requests UNDP to provide the Executive Board with an oral update on the implementation of the evaluation’s recommendations and management response;

11. *Requests* that UNDP further clarify and communicate responsibilities between the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support and the Crisis Bureau and regional bureaux to prevent overlap and ensure clarity, consistency and complementarity at global, regional and country levels;

*With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to the Syrian refugee crisis response and promoting an integrated resilience approach (DP/2021/10) and the management response thereto (DP/2021/11):*

12. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to the Syrian refugee crisis response and promoting an integrated resilience approach, and the management response thereto;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the evaluation’s findings and conclusions regarding UNDP efforts to bring a resilience approach to the Syrian refugee crisis response, as well as the reinforced partnership between UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in support to refugees and host communities;

14. *Takes note* that UNDP will, in consultation with UNHCR and other relevant partners, review and identify strategic directions to improve and update the 3RP response and coordination mechanisms in full respect of the obligation to ensure a safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees;

15. *Encourages* UNDP, in line with the evaluation’s findings, to provide thought leadership as well as practical programme solutions to contribute to stronger intra- and inter-agency cooperation, coherence, coordination and complementarity in the delivery of United Nations operations at country level;

16. *Requests* UNDP to take measures to address challenges noted in the evaluation with regard to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

4 February 2021

## 2021/3

### Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2021

#### *The Executive Board*

*Recalls* that during its first regular session 2021, it:

#### **Item 1**

##### **Organizational matters**

Elected on 7 December 2020 the following members of the Bureau for 2021:

President:	H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria)
Vice-President:	H.E. Ms. Yoka Brandt (The Netherlands)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Lang Yabou (The Gambia)
Vice-President:	H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima (Bangladesh)

Adopted the agenda (DP/2021/L.1 and Corr.1) and approved the workplan for its first regular session 2021;

Approved the report of the second regular session 2020 (DP/2021/1);

Adopted the annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2021 (DP/2021/CRP.1);

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2021;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2021:

Annual session: 7 to 11 June 2021  
 Second regular session: 30 August to 3 September 2021.

## **Joint segment**

### **Item 2**

#### **Recommendations of the Board of Auditors**

Adopted decision 2021/1 on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors reports of UNDP (DP/2021/3), UNCDF (DP/2021/4), UNFPA (DP/FPA/2021/1) and UNOPS (DP/OPS/2021/1) on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2019;

### **Item 3**

#### **Follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting**

Took note of the joint UNDP/UNFPA report on the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (DP-FPA/2021/1);

## **UNDP segment**

### **Item 4**

#### **Human Development Report**

Took note of an update by the secretariat on consultations on the Human Development Report;

### **Item 5**

#### **UNDP country programmes and related matters**

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

*Africa:* Côte d'Ivoire; (DP/DCP/CIV/3)

*Asia-Pacific:* China (DP/DCP/CHN/5);

*Arab States:* Somalia (DP/DCP/SOM/4), Tunisia (DP/DCP/TUN/3);

*Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States:* Azerbaijan (DP/DCP/AZE/5), Georgia (DP/DCP/GEO/4); North Macedonia (DP/DCP/MKD/4); Uzbekistan (DP/DCP/UZB/4);

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* Mexico (DP/DCP/MEX/3), Panama (DP/DCP/PAN/4); Uruguay (DP/DCP/URY/4);

Approved the second six-month extension of the country programme for Madagascar, (DP/2021/5);

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan (DP/2021/5);

Approved the fourth, six-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic and the fifth extension of the country programme for Yemen (DP/2021/5 and Add.1);

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Tajikistan (DP/2021/5);

Approved the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for Guatemala and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (DP/2021/5);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Argentina, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Maldives, and the first six-month extension of the country programme for Armenia, already approved by the Administrator (DP/2021/5 and Add.2);

## **Item 6**

### **UNDP evaluation**

Adopted decision 2021/2 on the evaluation of UNDP support to climate change adaptation (DP/2021/6) and the management response (DP/2021/7); the evaluation of UNDP support to conflict-affected countries (DP/2021/8) and the management response (DP/2021/9); and the evaluation of UNDP support to the Syrian refugee crisis response and promoting an integrated resilience approach (DP/2021/10) and the management response (DP/2021/11);

### **UNFPA segment**

## **Item 7**

### **UNFPA evaluation**

Took note of the formative evaluation of UNFPA support to South-South and triangular cooperation, (DP/FPA/2021/CRP.1) and the management response to the formative evaluation of UNFPA support to South-South and triangular cooperation (DP/FPA/2021/CRP.2).

## **Item 8**

### **Country programmes and related matters**

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

Azerbaijan (DP/FPA/CPD/AZE/5), China (DP/FPA/CPD/CHN/9), Côte d'Ivoire (DP/FPA/CPD/CIV/8), Eswatini (DP/FPA/CPD/SWZ/7), Georgia (DP/FPA/CPD/GEO/4), North Macedonia (DP/FPA/CPD/MKD/2), Panama (DP/FPA/CPD/PAN/4), Somalia (DP/FPA/CPD/SOM/4), Tunisia (DP/FPA/CPD/TUN/10), Uganda (DP/FPA/CPD/UGA/9), Uruguay (DP/FPA/CPD/URY/4) and Uzbekistan (DP/FPA/CPD/UZB/5);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives and United Republic of Tanzania (DP/FPA/2021/2), and the first six-month extension of the country programme for Armenia (DP/FPA/2021/2/Add.1);

Approved the second one-year extensions for the country programmes for Guatemala and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and the fourth, six-month extension for the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic (DP/FPA/2021/2);

### **UNOPS segment**

## **Item 9**

### **United Nations Office for Project Services**

Heard the Director of Regional Portfolios give a statement on behalf of the UNOPS Executive Director;

**Item 10**  
**Other matters**

Heard an address by the Chairperson of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/UN-Women Staff Council.

*4 February 2021*

**TENTATIVE WORKPLAN  
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS  
ANNUAL SESSION 2021  
(7 - 11 June 2021, New York)**

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
<b>Monday, 7 June</b>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session</li> <li>• Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2021</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOINT SEGMENT</b></p>
		2	UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 72/279 ON THE REPOSITIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM
		3	INTERNAL AUDIT AND INVESTIGATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation activities in 2020, and management responses</li> </ul>
	3 – 5:30 p.m.	4	ETHICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities for 2020, and management responses.</li> </ul>
		5	PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT
<b>Tuesday, 8 June</b>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	6	<b>UNDP SEGMENT</b> INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR AND ANNUAL REPORT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update on impact of and response to COVID-19</li> <li>• Cumulative review of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and annual report of the Administrator for 2020</li> <li>• UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020</li> <li>• Statistical annex</li> </ul>
		8	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation and approval of country programme documents</li> <li>• Extensions of country programmes</li> </ul>
	3 – 5:30 p.m.	7	GENDER EQUALITY AT UNDP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021</li> </ul>
		11	UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Volunteers: annual report of the Administrator</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, 9 June</b>	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	10	UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumulative review of the strategic framework, 2018-2021, and annual report on results for 2020</li> </ul>



	3 – 5:30 p.m.	9	<p>EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual report on evaluation, 2020, and management commentaries</li> <li>• Evaluation of UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021, and management response</li> <li>• Joint evaluation of UNDP/GEF small grants programme, and management response</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, 10 June</b>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	12	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNFPA SEGMENT</b></p> <p>STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ANNUAL REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update on impact of and response to COVID-19</li> <li>• Progress report on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021</li> <li>• Report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020</li> <li>• Statistical and financial review, 2020</li> </ul>
	3 – 5:30 p.m.	14	<p>UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation and approval of country programme documents</li> <li>• Extensions of country programmes</li> </ul>
		13	<p>EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual report of the UNFPA Evaluation Office 2020, and management commentaries</li> <li>• Evaluation of UNFPA support to gender equality and women’s empowerment, and management response</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, 11 June</b>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	15	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNOPS SEGMENT</b></p> <p>STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ANNUAL REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update on impact of and response to COVID-19</li> <li>• Annual report of the Executive Director</li> </ul>
	3 – 4 p.m.	16	<p>OTHER MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of decisions</li> </ul>
		1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2021</li> <li>Closing of the session</li> </ul>