



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

Distr.: Limited  
9 April 2021

Original: English

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**Annual session 2021**

7-11 June 2021, New York

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Organizational matters**

**Provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents  
and workplan**

**Note by the Executive Board secretariat**

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## **Annotations and list of documents**

### **Item 1**

#### **Organizational matters**

Under this item, the Executive Board will adopt the agenda for the annual session 2021 and agree on the workplan for the session as presented by the Secretary of the Board. The Board may wish to approve the report of its first regular session 2021. A draft report was distributed to members of the Board for their comments; the final report contains comments received within the deadline.

#### *Documentation:*

Provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents and workplan (DP/2021/L.2)

Report of the first regular session 2021 (DP/2021/12)

Decisions adopted at the first regular session 2021 (DP/2021/13)

## **Joint segment**

### **Item 2**

#### **Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system**

In accordance with decisions 2018/16, 2018/18 and 2018/20, UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS will continue to engage and update the Executive Board on the status of implementation of the General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 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, including showcasing examples from the field.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the update of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

### **Item 3**

#### **Internal audit and investigation**

Under this item, the Executive Board will have before it the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation.

Pursuant to decision 2016/13 of the Executive Board, the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations submits the present report covering its activities in 2020. It includes an opinion, based on the scope of work undertaken, concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNDP framework of governance, risk management and control; a concise summary of work; and the criteria that support the opinion.

The management response to this report is presented separately (decision 2006/13) and the annual report of the Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee is appended to this report (in accordance with document DP/2008/16/Rev.1).

The report on the UNFPA internal audit and investigation activities of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIS) for the year ending 31 December 2020 responds to Executive Board decisions 2015/2 and 2015/13 and earlier pertinent Board decisions. It presents a synthesis of activities completed in 2020 by OAIS on

internal audit and investigation. The report contains information on (a) the resources in OAIS for 2020; (b) significant issues revealed through OAIS internal audit and investigation activities; (c) investigations, including information on cases and actions taken; (d) the review of internal audit recommendations issued in 2010-2020 and their implementation status. The opinion on the governance, risk management and control framework of UNFPA, based on the work undertaken, is provided as an addendum to the report. Annexes are available separately on the UNFPA website.

Pursuant to Executive Board decision 2015/2 and earlier pertinent decisions, the annual report of the UNFPA Oversight Advisory Committee (previously Audit Advisory Committee) is provided as an addendum to the report. A management response to the two reports is also available (DP/FPA/2021/CRP.6).

The Executive Board will also have before it the activity report on UNOPS internal audit and investigation services for the year ended 31 December 2020, submitted by the Internal Audit and Investigations Group. The report is accompanied by the management response presented separately (in accordance with decision 2006/13) and the annual report of the UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee for 2020.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on the internal audit and investigation reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

*Documentation:*

UNDP: Annual report of the Office of Audit and Investigations on internal audit and investigation activities in 2020 (DP/2021/14)

UNFPA: Report of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services on UNFPA internal audit and investigation activities in 2020 (DP/FPA/2021/6)

Opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNFPA framework of governance, risk management and control (DP/FPA/2021/6/Add.1)

Annual report of the UNFPA Oversight Advisory Committee (DP/FPA/2021/6/Add.2)

UNOPS: Annual report of the Internal Audit and Investigations Group on internal audit and investigations activities in 2020 (DP/OPS/2021/2)

## **Item 4 Ethics**

Under this item, the Executive Board will have before it the reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Pursuant to decision 2008/37 of the Executive Board, the UNDP Ethics Office submits the present report covering its activities in 2020. In accordance with the Secretary-General's bulletin on United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes (ST/SGB/2007/11), the Ethics Panel of the United Nations reviewed the report in February 2021. This is the thirteenth annual report presented by the Ethics Office since its establishment in 2007. The report is accompanied by a management response.

The UNFPA report is submitted to the Executive Board pursuant to its decision 2015/2 and earlier pertinent Board decisions. In accordance with the Secretary-General's bulletin on United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes (ST/SGB/2007/11), the report was considered at the 131st meeting of the Ethics Panel of the United Nations and presented to the UNFPA Executive Director. The report provides a summary of the activities of the UNFPA Ethics Office during 2020, and describes trends in the mandated areas of its work. It also provides recommendations to management to further strengthen the

organizational culture of integrity and compliance. A management response to the report is also available (DP/FPA/2021/CRP.7).

Pursuant to Executive Board decision 2010/17, the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of UNOPS submits to the Board the report on the activities of the Ethics and Compliance Office during 2020. This report has been reviewed by the Ethics Panel of the United Nations, in accordance with section 5.4 of the Secretary-General's bulletin on United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes (ST/SGB/2007/11), as amended. The report is accompanied by a management response.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on the reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

*Documentation:*

Activities of the UNDP Ethics Office in 2020 (DP/2021/15)

UNFPA: Report of the Ethics Office 2019 (DP/FPA/2021/7)

Activities of the UNOPS Ethics and Compliance Office in 2020 (DP/OPS/2021/3)

## **Item 5 Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment**

Under this item, UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS will provide updates on their responses to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. This update is in line with decision 2020/11 of the Executive Board which requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS “to continue to take action to ensure a victim-centred, system-wide and coherent approach at all levels to prevent and tackle sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment” and “to continue providing updates to the Executive Board on how UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS are preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in its policies, procedures and operations at all levels, taking into account recommendations from the independent review”.

## **UNDP segment**

### **Item 6 Annual report of the Administrator**

The UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, adopted by the Executive Board at a special session in November 2017, sets out the direction for a new UNDP, optimized to help countries achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The cumulative review of the Strategic Plan and annual report of the Administrator for 2020 will take stock of progress, identify challenges and further focus on the effective implementation of the current Strategic Plan, underpinned by lessons learned from audit and evaluation. It will offer valuable insights on UNDP response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020, as well as its institutional transformations, including in the context of the United Nations development system reform.

In line with General Assembly resolutions 59/267 and 62/246, the UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) provides a summary of UNDP management responses to the recommendations contained in the reports issued by the

JIU in 2020, as well as the implementation status of relevant JIU recommendations issued in 2019 and 2018.

The statistical annex contains detailed financial information on the annual stock of revenue and expenses for UNDP country programme activities from all core and non-core funding sources.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this agenda item.

*Documentation:*

Cumulative review of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and annual report of the Administrator for 2020 (DP/2021/16)

Report of UNDP on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020 (DP/2021/16/Add.1)

Statistical annex (DP/2021/16/Add.2)

## **Item 7 Gender equality at UNDP**

The UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021, is a roadmap to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the development work and institutional performance of UNDP. Gender equality is one of the six signature solutions identified in the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, to provide an integrated response to complex challenges across three outcomes: (a) eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions; (b) accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development; and (c) building resilience to crises and shocks. The present report highlights the progress made in 2020 in the development work and institutional performance, as well as challenges and emerging trends, with a focus on UNDP COVID-19 response through a gender lens. Building on the progress reported in the previous two years, it provides a cumulative comparative analysis, lessons learnt from the COVID-19 response, and a way forward for the implementation of the strategy. The Board may wish to take note of the report

*Documentation:*

Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021 (DP/2021/17)

## **Item 8 UNDP country programmes and related matters**

Under this item, the Executive Board will be asked to: (a) take note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Central African Republic, Chad, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia; (b) approve the third, three-month extension of the country programme for Madagascar; and (c) review and approve, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/7, the country programme documents for Argentina and Armenia.

*Documentation:*

Extensions of country programmes (DP/2021/18)

Country programme document for Argentina (DP/DCP/ARG/4)

Country programme document for Armenia (DP/DCP/ARM/5)

## **Item 9 Evaluation**

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of UNDP will present its annual report on evaluation for 2020 and two corporate evaluations, concluding the office's medium-term plan (DP/2018/4) approved by the Executive Board in 2018.

The annual report on evaluation 2020 presents the status of key initiatives undertaken by the IEO in 2020 and looks at progress to date in the implementation of its workplan and in advancing an evaluation culture in UNDP. The annual report includes the results of IEO annual quality assessment of decentralized evaluations, as well as a synthesis of accomplishments and challenges emerging from IEO evaluations, in response to Executive Board decision 2020/15. The report is accompanied by management commentaries.

The evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, assesses the vision set out in the current Strategic Plan. It assesses the extent to which the enablers and changes introduced to operationalize this vision are improving UNDP support to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at global and national levels, also helping the organization to adapt and respond to changes in context. The evaluation covers UNDP COVID-19 initial response (March to December 2020) and considers the organization's readiness to respond to the unprecedented requests for support.

The joint Global Environment Facility-UNDP evaluation of the Small Grants Programme (SGP) assesses the extent to which the SGP, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by UNDP, and executed by UNOPS, is achieving the objectives set out in its strategic and operational directions under GEF-6 (2014–2018) and GEF-7 (2018–2022) replenishment cycles. This is the third evaluation of the SGP conducted jointly with the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF. The evaluation analyses the GEF SGP performance since 2014 and provides evaluative evidence of the SGP relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The evaluation paid particular attention to the upgrading process, where some SGP country programmes are implemented as full-/medium-size GEF projects.

The evaluations will be accompanied by management responses.

The Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

### *Documentation:*

Annual report on evaluation, 2020 (DP/2021/19)

Evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018 – 2021 (DP/2021/20)

Management response to the evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018 – 2021 (DP/2021/21)

Third joint Global Environment Facility-UNDP evaluation of the Small Grants Programme (DP/2021/22)

Management response to the third joint Global Environment Facility-UNDP evaluation of the Small Grants Programme (DP/2021/23)

## **Item 10 United Nations Capital Development Fund**

Under this item, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is presenting the annual review of results achieved in 2020. The report examines progress made in achieving the two outcome areas of the UNCDF strategic

framework, 2018-2021: (a) enhancing inclusive financial markets and local development finance systems; and (b) unlocking public and private finance for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, primarily in least developed countries.

The Board may wish to adopt a decision, elements of which are contained in the report.

*Documentation:*

Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2020 (DP/2021/24)

## **Item 11 United Nations Volunteers**

Pursuant to Executive Board decision 2018/8, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme submits the present report covering its activities in 2020, presenting UNV performance in 2020 and the evaluation of its strategic framework, 2018-2021 (DP/2018/6). On this basis, the report reflects on the achievements in the penultimate year of the strategic framework, provides a summary of key findings of the evaluation, proposes minor adjustments in its results matrix, and highlights priorities for 2021 and the Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals.

The Board may wish to adopt a decision, elements of which are contained in the report.

*Documentation:*

United Nations Volunteers: Report of the Administrator (DP/2021/25)

## **UNFPA segment**

### **Item 12 Annual report of the Executive Director**

Under this item, the Executive Board will consider the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021.

Part I of the report provides an analysis of the progress in 2020 of the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. An addendum to the report offers a statistical and financial review, summarizing the financial situation of UNFPA and providing statistical highlights concerning UNFPA finances and programmes in 2020. The figures for the financial information are provisional, subject to the report of the Board of Auditors. Part II of the report, on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020, provides, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/267, a synopsis of UNFPA management responses to key recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in its reports issued in 2020 that are relevant to UNFPA. Annexes to the annual report are available separately on the UNFPA website.

The Board may wish to adopt a decision on the annual report of the Executive Director.

*Documentation:*

Implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021: Report of the Executive Director (DP/FPA/2021/4, Part I)

Statistical and financial review, 2020 (DP/FPA/2021/4, Part I, Add.1)



Report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020  
(DP/FPA/2021/4, Part II)

### **Item 13 Evaluation**

In accordance with the revised evaluation policy of UNFPA (DP/FPA/2019/1) and relevant Executive Board decisions, the annual report on the evaluation function for 2020 provides information on the performance of the evaluation function at central and decentralized levels, as well as the contribution of UNFPA to the United Nations coherence in evaluation, including system-wide evaluations, and national evaluation capacity development.

The annual report on the evaluation function for 2020 will be accompanied by management commentaries on the report (DP/FPA/2021/CRP.3).

The Board will also have before it the evaluation of the UNFPA support to gender equality and women's empowerment (DP/FPA/2019/CRP.8), and the management response to the report (DP/FPA/2019/CRP.9).

The Board may wish to adopt a decision on the annual report on the evaluation function.

#### *Documentation:*

Annual report on the evaluation function, 2020: Report of the Director, Evaluation Office (DP/FPA/2021/3)

### **Item 14 Country programmes and related matters**

The Executive Board will be asked to approve, in accordance with decision 2014/7, the country programme document for Armenia, and also the third, three-month extension for Madagascar, as well as the fifth, six-months extension for the Syrian Arab Republic.

#### *Documentation:*

Country programme documents for:

Armenia (DP/FPA/CPD/ARM/4);

Extensions of UNFPA country programmes (DP/FPA/2021/3).

## **UNOPS segment**

### **Item 15 Annual report of the Executive Director**

The annual report of the Executive Director of UNOPS details the organization's support to the implementation of partners' peace and security, humanitarian and development projects. Through more than 1,000 projects in over 80 countries, UNOPS helps people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. The report highlights key results across the organization in 2020, providing examples of the ways in which UNOPS supports governments, the United Nations system and other partners around the world. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, 2020 saw significant demand for UNOPS services, notably in relation to COVID-19 response and recovery activities.

The Board may wish to adopt a decision, elements of which are contained in the report.

*Documentation:*

Annual report of the Executive Director (DP/OPS/2021/4)

**Item 16**  
**Other matters**

**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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNDP SEGMENT</b></p> 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>
<b>Wednesday, 9 June</b>	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	11	UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Volunteers: annual report of the Administrator</li> </ul>
		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 on the UNFPA evaluation function 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>