



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

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**First regular session 2023**

30 January to 3 February 2023, New York

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Organizational matters**

**Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2022**

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**2022/1****Reports of UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2020***The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the unqualified audit opinions on UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2020;
2. *Recalls* its decision 2021/1 and calls upon UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS to harmonize further their reporting formats on the implementation of the Board of Auditors recommendations, as appropriate, including, where possible, the time frames for their detailed reporting and the thematic categorization of recommendations into those that are priority, and any other priorities, and requests to work with UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP in that regard, as appropriate;
3. *Acknowledges* the progress made by UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, and supports the ongoing efforts of UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS management to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors;
4. *Notes* paragraphs 33-59 and Note 11 in the Board of Auditors report for 2020 ([A/76/5/Add.11](#)) relating to the UNOPS sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation (“S3i”) initiative, and encourages UNOPS to continue to strengthen its risk assessments and risk management.

*4 February 2022***2022/2****Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment***The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the updates by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment;
2. *Notes* the progress made and the need for continued effort to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, 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 at the country, regional and global levels to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, while leveraging their respective mandates, including addressing, as needed, the increased risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment during the COVID-19 response and recovery;
4. *Further requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to undertake timely and thorough victim/survivor-centred investigations, and to ensure prompt reporting on allegations to Member States through existing mechanisms/channels, as well as dedicated resources to investigations of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, and requests an update on how each organization is improving its organizational culture to address all forms of sexual harassment, and its actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in its policies, procedures, operations, and through improvement of organizational culture at headquarters, regional and country levels, at the annual session, starting in 2022, and asks that this includes analysis of their implementation of system-wide initiatives, including the Implementing Partners Protocol, the Implementing Partner Capacity Assessment and ClearCheck;

5. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue taking a long-term approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, in line with their respective strategic plans;
6. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to ensure that leadership at all levels continue to be aware of their responsibilities in protecting against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, and that staff with specific protection of sexual exploitation and abuse duties participate in inter-agency coordination mechanisms, as appropriate, and that all relevant staff are provided with appropriate role-specific training to support culture change;
7. *Commends* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS for the development of their respective strategies and annual submission to the United Nations Secretary-General of action plans on preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse that are implemented at headquarters, regional and country levels, and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to share headquarters-level action plans with the Executive Board annually;
8. *Requests* an update from UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, at the first regular session of the Executive Board 2023, on metrics used to measure progress on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and how integrated results and resources framework indicators on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment have aligned with relevant quadrennial comprehensive policy review indicators and those of other United Nations development system agencies and ensure that data obtained, including on allegations, using these metrics and indicators and subsequent analysis, systematically inform strategies, policies and procedures.

*4 February 2022*

### **2022/3**

#### **UNDP evaluation**

##### *The Executive Board*

*With regard to the Independent Evaluation Office multi-year programme of work, 2022-2025 (DP/2022/6):*

1. *Takes note* of the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office multi-year programme of work 2022-2025 (DP/2022/6);
2. *Reaffirms* the importance of evaluation as an essential tool for learning and accountability, and urges UNDP to ensure that adequate resources are provided for evaluation, in compliance with the evaluation policy as endorsed in decision 2019/19 approving the UNDP evaluation policy (DP/2019/29), and in keeping with expectations set out in the UNDP integrated resources plan and integrated budget estimates, 2022-2025 (DP/2021/29);
3. *Acknowledges* the corporate/thematic evaluations and other activities that the Independent Evaluation Office has proposed to carry out during this four-year period, and views them to be relevant to UNDP objectives and programming under the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;
4. *Requests* UNDP to extend the importance attributed to inter-agency collaboration in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (DP/2021/28) to all evaluations of programmes and projects that include partnerships with other United Nations entities;
5. *Welcomes* the Independent Evaluation Office's plans to take a systems approach to strengthen both the quality and impartiality of decentralized evaluations and requests the Independent Evaluation Office and UNDP management to formulate a plan to

improve the independence, reliability and quality of decentralized evaluations and to present it to the Executive Board at its annual session 2022;

6. *Decides* to approve the multi-year programme of work of the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office for 2022- 2025;

*With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to youth economic empowerment (DP/2022/7) and the management response thereto (DP/2022/8):*

7. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to youth economic empowerment and the management response thereto;

8. *Takes note* with appreciation of the evaluation's findings, conclusions and recommendations, encourages UNDP to address interconnections and synergies between employability, job creation and enabling environment in support to youth economic empowerment, and requests UNDP to seek sustainable results and impact in addressing structural barriers for youth employment, through, inter alia, meaningful engagements and partnerships with youth in early stages of project design and strategic partnerships with other United Nations organizations and stakeholders;

*With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to energy access and transition (DP/2022/9) and the management response thereto (DP/2022/10):*

9. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to energy access and transition and the management response thereto, noting the multifaceted energy support by UNDP;

10. *Takes note of* the evaluation's findings, conclusions and recommendations and requests UNDP to ensure long-term sustainable results and impact and project and programme sustainability through, inter alia, early engagement of relevant national actors and partners in project and programme formulation, implementation, financing and funding processes, as appropriate, and to ensure the independence and improve the quality of energy project evaluations;

11. *Notes* the commitment of UNDP to further develop its energy offer, in line with its ambitions in the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025.

4 February 2022

## 2022/4

### UNFPA evaluation

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the relevance and utility of the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2022-2025;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of evaluation as an essential tool for learning and accountability, and requests UNFPA to continue to ensure that adequate resources are provided for evaluation, in compliance with the evaluation policy, as endorsed in decision 2019/1 approving the UNFPA evaluation policy (DP/FPA/2019/1), and in keeping with expectations set out in the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025 (DP/FPA/2021/9);

3. *Acknowledges* the transparent and participatory process undertaken in developing the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2022-2025;

4. *Requests* UNFPA to continue to extend the importance attributed to inter-agency collaboration in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (DP/FPA/2021/8) to all evaluations of programmes and projects that include partnerships with other United Nations entities;

5. *Approves* the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2022-2025.

4 February 2022

**2022/5**

**United Nations Office for Project Services sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation ('S3i') reserve**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the report on the UNOPS sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation ('S3i') reserve (DP/OPS/2022/2);
2. *Recalls* the UNOPS budget estimates 2022-2023 (DP/OPS/2021/6) and annexes that first requested the establishment of the designated sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation ('S3i') reserve, as well as the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/OPS/2021/7);
3. *Takes note* of the additional assessment and rationale provided by UNOPS, pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision 2021/21, for the proposal to create a separate sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation ('S3i') reserve at a level of \$105 million;
4. *Approves* the establishment and initial level of the sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation ('S3i') reserve to be set at \$105 million with future changes subject to Executive Board approval;
5. *Reaffirms* the request that UNOPS commission an independent comprehensive evaluation of the sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation ('S3i') initiative after the end of the pilot phase in December 2023, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in line with paragraph 7 of decision 2021/21, and present the findings, including an itemization of all investments to include detailed project description, investment amount, project status and project end date, to the Executive Board at the annual session 2024;
6. *Urges* UNOPS to undertake all possible measures to recover the overdue repayments from disinvestments in sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation ('S3i') initiative projects and further requests UNOPS to provide the Executive Board with an update in particular on further risk diversification measures regarding future investments at the annual session 2022.

4 February 2022

**2022/6**

**Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2022**

*The Executive Board*

*Recalls* that during its first regular session 2022, it:

**Item 1**

**Organizational matters**

Elected on 6 December 2021 the following members of the Bureau for 2022:

President:	H.E. Ms. Yoka Brandt (The Netherlands)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Martin Kimani (Kenya)
Vice-President:	H.E. Ms. Alya Al-Thani (Qatar)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. José Manuel Rodríguez Cuadros (Peru)

Vice-President: H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya (Ukraine)\*

Adopted the agenda (DP/2022/L.1) and approved the workplan for its first regular session 2022;

Approved the report of the second regular session 2021 (DP/2022/1);

Adopted the annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2022 (DP/2022/CRP.1);

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2022;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2022:

Annual session:	6 to 10 June 2022
Second regular session:	29 August to 2 September 2022.

## Joint segment

### Item 2

#### Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Adopted decision 2022/1 on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors reports of UNDP (DP/2022/3), UNCDF (DP/2022/4), 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 2020;

### 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/2022/1);

### Item 4

#### Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

Adopted decision 2022/2 on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;

## UNDP segment

### Item 5

#### Human Development Report

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

### Item 6

#### UNDP country programmes and related matters

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

*Africa:* Guinea-Bissau (DP/DCP/GNB/3); Mozambique (DP/DCP/MOZ/4);

*Asia-Pacific:* Malaysia (DP/DCP/MYS/4); Maldives (DP/DCP/MDV/4); Thailand (DP/DCP/THA/4); Viet Nam (DP/DCP/VNM/3);

*Latin America and the Caribbean:* country programmes for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean (DP/DSP/CAR/4); Belize (DP/DCP/BLZ/4); El Salvador (DP/DCP/SLV/4); Guyana (DP/DCP/GUY/4); Honduras (DP/DCP/HND/4); Jamaica (DP/DCP/JAM/4);

\* Elected 31 January 2022.

Peru ([DP/DCP/PER/4](#)); Suriname ([DP/DCP/SUR/4](#)); Trinidad and Tobago ([DP/DCP/TTO/4](#));

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Brazil, Haiti and Saudi Arabia and the first six-month extension of the country programme for Papua New Guinea ([DP/2022/5](#));

Approved the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for Algeria and Bahrain from 1 January to 31 December 2022; the third one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) from 1 January to 31 December 2022; the sixth extension of the country programme for Yemen from 1 January to 31 December 2022 ([DP/2022/5](#)); and the sixth six-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic from 1 January to 30 June 2022 ([DP/2022/5/Add.1](#));

Approved the regional programmes for Africa ([DP/RPD/RBA/4](#)); Asia and the Pacific ([DP/RPD/RAP/4](#)); the Arab States ([DP/RPD/RAS/5](#)); Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States ([DP/RPD/REC/5](#)); and Latin America and the Caribbean ([DP/RPD/RLA/4](#));

#### **Item 7**

##### **UNDP evaluation**

Adopted decision 2022/3 on the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office multi-year programme of work 2022-2025 ([DP/2022/6](#)); the evaluation of UNDP support to youth economic empowerment ([DP/2022/7](#)) and the management response thereto ([DP/2022/8](#)); and the evaluation of UNDP support to energy access and transition ([DP/2022/9](#)) and the management response thereto ([DP/2022/10](#));

#### **Item 8**

##### **United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme**

Took note of the UNV strategic framework, 2022-2025 ([DP/2022/11](#));

#### **Item 9**

##### **United Nations Capital Development Fund**

Took note of the UNCDF strategic framework, 2022-2025 ([DP/2022/12](#));

#### **Item 12**

##### **United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation**

Took note of the UNOSSCs strategic framework, 2022-2025 ([DP/CF/SSC/7](#));

### **UNFPA segment**

#### **Item 10**

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

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

Argentina ([DP/FPA/CPD/ARG/1](#)), Cameroon ([DP/FPA/CPD/CMR/8](#)), the Caribbean subregional programme ([DP/FPA/CPD/CAR/7](#)), El Salvador ([DP/FPA/CPD/SLV/9](#)), Eritrea ([DP/FPA/CPD/ERI/6](#)), Guinea-Bissau ([DP/FPA/CPD/GNB/7](#)), Honduras ([DP/FPA/CPD/HND/9](#)), Malaysia ([DP/FPA/CPD/MYS/1](#)), Maldives ([DP/FPA/CPD/MDV/7](#)), Mozambique ([DP/FPA/CPD/MOZ/10](#)), Peru ([DP/FPA/CPD/PER/10](#)), Thailand ([DP/FPA/CPD/THA/12](#)) and Viet Nam ([DP/FPA/CPD/VNM/10](#)).



Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Brazil and Haiti (DP/FPA/2022/3);

Approved the second one-year extensions for Afghanistan and Algeria; the third one-year extension for Venezuela; the sixth one-year extension for Yemen; and the sixth, six-month extension for the Syrian Arab Republic (from 1 January to 30 June 2022) (DP/FPA/2022/3).

**Item 11**  
**UNFPA evaluation**

Adopted decision 2022/4 approving the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan for 2022-2025;

**UNOPS segment**

**Item 13**  
**United Nations Office for Project Services**

Adopted decision 2022/5 on the UNOPS sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation ('S3i') reserve;

**Item 14**  
**Other matters**

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

*4 February 2022*

**2022/7**  
**Annual report of the Administrator for 2021**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Administrator for 2021 (DP/2022/17) and its annexes, 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 progress made by UNDP, over the period of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, towards becoming an agile, innovative and resilient organization capable of providing effective local and global integrated solutions that advance sustainable development, particularly in the face of multiple complex and rapidly evolving challenges;
3. *Takes note* of the programmatic and institutional results achieved in 2021, including on poverty and inequality, innovative development financing, digitalization, climate action, social protection, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
4. *Recognizes* the overarching role of UNDP in poverty eradication, 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 2021 UNDP achieved its highest level of programme delivery in over a decade and encourages discussion between UNDP, programme countries, donors, the private sector, international financial institutions and civil society organizations to realize the Sustainable Development Goals and address the financing and funding gaps;
6. *Recognizes* the ongoing technical leadership of UNDP in the socioeconomic response to COVID-19, which has helped countries to prepare, respond and recover in

the face of the pandemic and to integrate pandemic responses into long-term development plans;

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, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators in country, to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. *Welcomes* the ambitious milestones set out in the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and urges continued commitment to results-driven programmes, agile, effective and efficient operations and multi-stakeholder partnerships that can help to unlock systemic transformation towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. *Recalls* its decisions 2021/5, paragraph 12, and 2021/14, paragraph 7, regarding the reporting on results jointly achieved with United Nations development system entities identified through common and complementary indicators;

10. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNDP to strengthen its management, oversight and fiduciary systems and reaffirms this requires both UNDP management and the Board to undertake continuous and sustained effort to achieve desired outcomes;

11. *Requests* UNDP to provide the Executive Board with all future reporting and statements at the same time it delivers these to other/external governance bodies, if they have a systemic governance significance for UNDP.

10 June 2022

## 2022/8

### UNDP evaluation

#### *The Executive Board*

*With regard to the annual report on evaluation, 2021 (DP/2022/21) and management commentaries thereto:*

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on evaluation (DP/2022/21) and the management commentaries thereon, *welcomes* the additional analysis provided on key findings and lessons learned from evaluations carried out in 2021, and requests that UNDP address the issues raised;

2. *Takes note* of the expanded efforts of UNDP management and the Independent Evaluation Office to improve the quality and coverage of decentralized evaluations, as indicated in the document, 'Information note: a road map for strengthening decentralized evaluations in UNDP', and requests that UNDP management allocate sufficient resources and work with the Independent Evaluation Office to continue to improve evaluation capacities as outlined in the road map and to provide periodic progress updates to the Board;

3. *Takes note* of the good quality of management responses to evaluations, encourages UNDP to take further actions to address the quality of action plans for decentralized evaluations and overdue recommendations, and requests the Independent Evaluation Office to work with UNDP to better record evidence of implementation and track the results of actions implemented in response to evaluation recommendations;

4. *Recalls* decision 2022/3, in particular paragraph 2 on adequate resourcing of the evaluation function of UNDP and paragraph 4 on inter-agency collaboration in evaluations;

*With regard to the report, financing the recovery: a formative evaluation of the UNDP response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Sustainable Development Goal financing (DP/2022/22) and the management response thereto (DP/2022/23)*

5. *Takes note* of the evaluation of the UNDP response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Sustainable Development Goal financing and welcomes the formative nature of the evaluation;

6. *Welcomes* the evaluation findings and conclusions acknowledging the important role and contribution of UNDP in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the work of UNDP to strengthen access to financing for the Sustainable Development Goals;
7. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNDP to develop a road map for its Moonshot of promoting the alignment of \$1 trillion of public and private capital to the Sustainable Development Goals, as the evaluation recommends, working with partners to leverage additional financing for and realigning existing resources with the Sustainable Development Goals;
8. *Notes* the commitment of UNDP, in response to the evaluation, to continue to broaden its support to domestic resource mobilization and to strengthen support for Sustainable Development Goal-related sovereign bond financing support;
9. *Takes note* of the UNDP commitments to climate financing and de-risking investments and the Moonshot ambition to connect 500 million people to energy systems, and encourages UNDP to work with government partners to align public and private financing towards this end.

*10 June 2022*

**2022/9**

**United Nations Volunteers programme: Report of the Administrator**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Reaffirms* General Assembly resolution 76/131 of 16 December 2021 on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) and twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, in which the Assembly recalled the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Welcomes* the results achieved by UNV in 2021 as reflected in the report of the Administrator (DP/2022/24);
3. *Takes note* of the results matrix, including baselines and targets, of the Strategic Framework, 2022-2025 (DP/2022/11), in line with the strategic guidance of General Assembly resolution 75/233, of 21 December 2020, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and based on the findings and recommendations of the independent evaluation of the previous Strategic Framework;
4. *Commends* UNV for being well embedded in the United Nations system as exemplified by its cooperation with 56 United Nations organizations;
5. *Reaffirms* the continued crucial role of the Special Voluntary Fund in delivering the UNV Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and calls upon all development partners in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund;
6. *Commends* UNV on its successful implementation of its digital transformation project and encourages UNV to continue its efforts in this regard as appropriate;
7. *Requests* UNV to continue being a strong advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities;
8. *Expresses appreciation* to all United Nations Volunteers for their outstanding contributions to the pandemic response and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during 2021.

*10 June 2022*

**2022/10****Report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2021***The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in 2021 (DP/2022/25);
2. *Commends* the progress made by UNCDF in implementing its Strategic Framework, 2018-2021;
3. *Emphasizes* its critical role in delivering innovative and blended financing approaches, including in support of wider United Nations development system activities, to support least developed countries in recovering and ‘building forward better’ from the COVID-19 crisis;
4. *Recommits* to supporting UNCDF in achieving its base growth resource requirements in accordance with the Strategic Framework.

*10 June 2022***2022/11****Implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021: Report of the Executive Director***The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the documents that make up the report of the Executive Director for 2021: DP/FPA/2022/4 (Part I, Part I/Add.1 and Part II);
2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by UNFPA in achieving the results and the end-of-plan targets of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2018-2021;
3. *Notes* the baselines and targets set out in the Integrated Results and Resources Framework, 2022-2025, and encourages continued commitment to results-driven programmes, agile and effective operations, and multistakeholder partnerships that can accelerate progress towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
4. *Recalls* its decisions 2021/9, paragraph 4, and 2021/17, paragraph 6, and requests UNFPA to continue to include in the annual reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of the strategic plan, 2022-2025, including in its midterm review, information on results jointly achieved with United Nations development system entities, identified through common and complementary indicators.

*10 June 2022***2022/12****UNFPA evaluation***The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the report on the evaluation function (DP/FPA/2022/5), and of the programme of work and budget of the Evaluation Office in 2022;
2. *Welcomes* the achievements across the evaluation performance indicators and the continued adaptability and responsiveness of the evaluation function in the face of the COVID-19 crisis;
3. *Also welcomes* the achievements in contributing to United Nations system-wide evaluation efforts, and in fostering national evaluation capacity development;
4. *Encourages* UNFPA to continue to increase investments in the evaluation function.

*10 June 2022*

2022/13

**Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation (S3i) reserve**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Executive Director (DP/OPS/2022/5) and expresses serious concerns about the reported irregularities, including weaknesses in oversight and loss of funds in some S3i projects;
2. *Recognizes* the contributions of UNOPS in 2021 to the operational results of governments, the United Nations, and other partners, through management support services and specialized technical expertise, expanding the implementation capacity for sustainable development;
3. *Takes note* of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and requests that future UNOPS reports be analytical in approach, describe problems encountered, explain major deviations from targets, and include analysis of materialized internal and external risk factors to the projects and how UNOPS has handled them;
4. *Requests* that UNOPS review and develop a timeline to implement all outstanding recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Joint Inspection Unit, and to present this to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2022;
5. *Welcomes* the achievement of gender parity and requests that UNOPS take further measures with a view to ensuring equitable geographical representation across the UNOPS workforce, and report back to the Board, through existing reporting, on steps taken in that regard;
6. *Welcomes* the contributions of UNOPS to COVID-19 response and recovery activities;
7. *Expresses* serious concerns at the reported irregularities, potential financial losses and alleged misconduct linked to S3i investments;
8. *Requests* that UNOPS, with urgency, take the following steps, as temporary measures, to address the failures regarding S3i and to slow accumulation of UNOPS reserves:
  - (a) take all necessary steps to recover funds related to the S3i;
  - (b) freeze all further S3i-related investments not already contractually committed by UNOPS;
  - (c) transfer into the operational reserve any balance not committed to projects from the growth and innovation reserve, accumulated surpluses, and the S3i reserve;
  - (d) freeze all further transfers of money out of the operational reserve into the growth and innovation reserve, the S3I reserve, accumulated surpluses, or for any purpose other than daily operations;
9. *Further requests* that UNOPS report to the Executive Board when these actions have been completed and decides to consider, upon completion, whether these actions satisfactorily address the root causes and institutional vulnerabilities within UNOPS that led to the failures associated with S3i in order to terminate the temporary measures;
10. *Decides* to create a working group in accordance with rule 9 of its rules of procedure consisting of 10 members and observers of the Executive Board to assess the root causes and institutional vulnerabilities within UNOPS that led to the failures associated with S3i, with a view to making recommendations to the Executive Board to facilitate additional necessary actions to consider at the second regular session 2022 and the first regular session 2023;
11. *Requests* that the Bureau of the Board conduct consultations with the regional groups to present two nominees per regional group to compose the working group, to be appointed by the Board through a silence procedure;

12. Requests that the working group undertake its work in consultation with, as appropriate and not limited to, UNOPS, the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Joint Inspection Unit;

13. *Requests* the working group to focus its work on the following, and to present its work to the Executive Board:

- (a) options for the appropriate use of UNOPS reserves;
- (b) options to increase transparency around UNOPS management fees and costing structure, with a view to limiting the accumulation of UNOPS reserves;
- (c) any other matters deemed appropriate by the Bureau for the working group to discuss;

14. *Requests* that UNOPS provide the following to the Executive Board and the working group, at the earliest possible date, and with a view to facilitating the efforts of the working group in an expedited manner, complementary to any other actions undertaken by UNOPS:

- (a) a third-party review of the oversight mechanisms that existed for S3i investments;
- (b) a third-party review of UNOPS internal control systems, risk management and overall governance structures, including an assessment of the integrity of the wider UNOPS portfolio and a review of UNOPS cost structures;

15. *Requests* that UNOPS submit the terms of reference for these third-party reviews for approval by the working group prior to the commissioning of the reviews;

16. *Requests* that the Executive Director, ad interim, provide the Executive Board, as soon as possible, but no later than 15 July 2022, an action plan with a timeframe for all actions, including but not limited to those requested in this decision, to address concerns regarding S3i, with a view to enhancing transparency and accountability;

17. *Recalling* decision 2020/13 on the working methods, and recognizing the urgency of the situation, decides to include an update on the progress of the working group, including any preliminary findings, as an item for decision on the agenda of the second regular session 2022 and the first regular session 2023.

10 June 2022

## 2022/14

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

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes notes* of 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, and requests that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS provide future updates in a concise, clear and relevant manner within existing reporting;

2. *Urges* 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 Secretary-General in implementing related mandates;

3. *Welcomes* the partnerships with the international financial institutions, and decides to include an update on UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS engagement with the international financial institutions as a standalone item on the agenda of the first regular session 2023;

4. *Welcomes* UNDP and UNFPA progress in aligning country programme documents to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and urges

UNDP and UNFPA to continue to seek confirmation from the resident coordinators of the alignment of the country programmes with the Cooperation Frameworks;

5. *Stresses* the importance of integrated solutions, including enhanced cooperation, collaboration and coordination across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding operations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to address the complex, multifaceted challenges impacting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS update the Executive Board on how they are collaborating in joint analysis, needs assessments, planning, including collective outcomes, and programme delivery;

6. *Requests* that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS provide the Executive Board with an update on the implementation of the management and accountability framework, including the contributions of heads of agencies at country level and regional representatives to the implementation of United Nations development system reform;

7. *Requests* that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS efforts provide the Executive Board with information and data on their respective to realize efficiency gains through their contributions to system-wide coherence, collaboration and harmonization, and stresses the need to continue to realize efficiency gains, as stated in operational paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 72/279.

10 June 2022

## 2022/15

### **Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations, and management responses**

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the progress of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS in addressing audit-related management issues in 2021;

2. *Notes with appreciation* efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations from previous reports;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of the provision of sufficient resources for audit and investigation functions;

4. *Requests* that the Executive Board receive more regular closed briefings from the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI), the UNFPA Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIS) and the UNOPS Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG), in a timely manner and throughout the year, as needed, on potential red flags, audit findings and the status of investigations;

5. *Requests* the Directors of the OAI, OAIS and IAIG to provide at the second regular session 2022 their comprehensive assessments on the independence of each office, containing reflections on (but not limited to) the degree to which each respective office can determine freely: (a) how and when to report to and brief the Executive Board; (b) the scope of audits and investigations; (c) what and who to audit or investigate; (d) what assessments to make; (e) how to utilize available funds; and (f) its relationship with the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS); and requests them to also provide suggestions and pathways on how to further strengthen the independence of each respective office as well as their budget estimates required for the execution of the full mandate;

6. *Decides* to include an item on internal controls for decision at the second regular session 2022;

#### *With regard to UNDP:*

7. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) on internal audit and investigation activities in 2021 (DP/2022/15), which has been harmonized with those

of other United Nations agencies, in line with Executive Board decision 2020/10, and its annexes and the management response thereto;

8. *Expresses* continuing support for the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP;
9. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee, which should be reviewed as a separate document within the framework of this report;
10. *Requests* that an independent evaluation of the OAI be undertaken to confirm that its resourcing, capacity and capability are appropriate to meet its workload under the newly strengthened fiduciary system in a timely and comprehensive manner;

*With regard to UNFPA:*

11. *Takes note* of (a) the report of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIS) on UNFPA internal audit and investigation activities in 2021 (DP/FPA/2022/6), harmonized with those of other funds and programmes, in line with Executive Board decision 2020/10; (b) the opinion of OAIS on the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNFPA framework of governance, risk management and control; (c) the annual report of the Oversight Advisory Committee (DP/FPA/2022/6/Add.1), and (d) the management response to these two reports;

12. *Expresses* continuing support for the strategic initiatives OAIS has started to embark on to improve its efficiency and effectiveness so it can better carry out its mandate;

*With regard to UNOPS:*

13. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG) for 2021 (DP/OPS/2022/3) and the management response;

14. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure the full independence of the UNOPS internal audit and investigation mechanisms;

15. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2021, in line with Executive Board decision 2008/37, and supports the recommendation that IAIG should maintain a clear delineation between internal oversight and advisory activities;

16. *Requests* the Director of IAIG to provide an update to the Executive Board on the status of investigations related to S3i irregularities at the second regular session 2022, or at an earlier date, as needed.

10 June 2022

## 2022/16

### Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS (DP/2022/16; DP/FPA/2022/7; DP/OPS/2022/4);
2. *Takes note* of the continuously growing caseload of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS ethics offices and, concerned about their limited capacities, requests to ensure their respective ethics offices can adequately execute their mandates;
3. *Requests* the respective ethics offices to report on greater collaboration opportunities on field missions, on training and on outreach as well as on shared ethics-related guidance in their annual reports;
4. *Requests* the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to maintain and strengthen their independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 60/248 and 60/254, and encourages direct and independent communication with the Executive Board, as needed, through reports or briefings, in particular on concerns related to whistle-blower protection against retaliation issues;



5. *Notes* the progress made by the UNDP Ethics Office in strengthening the ethical culture of UNDP;
6. *Welcomes* the continued progress in the work of the UNFPA Ethics Office;
7. *Reaffirms* the need of the full independence of the UNOPS ethics function, and requests an independent review of the ethics function to ensure the independence and impartiality of the work;
8. *Urges* the Director of the UNOPS Ethics and Compliance Office to demonstrate and assure the Board of its full functionality and independence;
9. *Urges* UNOPS to ensure that a strong whistle-blower function and protection against retaliation system is in place to ensure the protection of individuals that report wrongdoings and risks related to weaknesses within the UNOPS management and control systems, and requests UNOPS to finalize and publish an updated whistle-blower policy, to be presented to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2022;
10. *Requests* UNOPS to update and make public its ethics website and to provide all information in an easy-to-access format for all UNOPS employees;
11. *Requests* the Director of the UNOPS Ethics and Compliance Office to report at the second regular session 2022 on the constitution of the office and the actions taken to strengthen the independence of the Office and whistle-blower protections.

*10 June 2022*

## **2022/17**

### **Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2022**

#### *The Executive Board*

*Recalls* that during its annual session 2022, it:

#### **Item 1**

##### **Organizational matters**

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for the annual session 2022 (DP/2022/L.2);

Adopted the report of the first regular session 2022 (DP/2022/13);

#### **Joint segment**

#### **Item 2**

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

Adopted decision 2022/14 on the update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system;

#### **Item 3**

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

Adopted decision 2022/15 on the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigations, and management responses;

#### **Item 4**

##### **Ethics**

Adopted decision 2022/16 on the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS;

**Item 15**

**Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment**

Took note of the presentations made by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;

**UNDP segment**

**Item 5**

**Annual report of the Administrator**

Adopted decision 2022/7 Annual report of the Administrator for 2021;

**Item 6**

**Gender equality at UNDP**

Took note of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2022-2025, and of the annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021;

**Item 7**

**UNDP country programmes and related matters**

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

*Africa region:* Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania;

*Arab States region:* the Syrian Arab Republic;

Took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Angola, already approved by the Administrator;

**Item 8**

**UNDP evaluation**

Adopted decision 2022/8 on UNDP evaluation;

**Item 9**

**United Nations Volunteers**

Adopted decision 2022/9 on the United Nations Volunteers programme: Report of the Administrator;

**Item 10**

**United Nations Capital Development Fund**

Adopted decision 2022/10 on the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2021;

**UNFPA segment**

**Item 12**

**Annual report of the Executive Director**

Adopted decision 2022/11 on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021: Report of the Executive Director;

**Item 13**

**UNFPA evaluation**

Adopted decision 2022/12 on UNFPA evaluation;

**Item 14**

**Country programmes and related matters**

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

Kenya (DP/FPA/CPD/KEN/10); Syrian Arab Republic (DP/FPA/CPD/SYR/9); and United

Republic of Tanzania (DP/FPA/CPD/TZA/9).

## UNOPS segment

### Item 16

#### Annual report of the Executive Director

Adopted decision 2022/13 on the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation (S3i) reserve.

10 June 2022

### 2022/18

#### UNDP structured funding dialogue

##### *The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the report on the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP strategic plans, 2018-2021 and 2022-2025 (DP/2022/28) and annexes, as well as the substantial progress made on United Nations entity-specific commitments under the United Nations funding compact, encourages UNDP to continue its efforts to meet the commitments under the funding compact, and reaffirms the call for entities of the United Nations development system and Member States to contribute to its full and effective implementation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/233;
2. *Notes* the importance of sufficient and predictable regular (core) resources linked to intended and demonstrated results, as these are critical for UNDP to deliver on the strategic plan, 2022-2025, respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises, help to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and maintain robust internal control and accountability systems;
3. *Expresses concern* with the current low level and continued decline of regular (core) resources, as these are also key to restoring development gains eroded by the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises;
4. *Recognizing* the continued trend of decline in core resources, requests that UNDP provide, in the context of the structured funding dialogue, a detailed analysis of the factors contributing to the decline of core resources and the potential implications on the ability of UNDP to deliver on its Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and identify measures to address this, which should be taken by UNDP and could be considered by Member States;
5. *Recalls* the importance of funding predictability and multi-year contributions for 2022 and future years to enable UNDP to respond to the evolving needs of programme countries with agility;
6. *Recalls* decision 2020/14 on the importance of broadening the contributor base and encourages UNDP, in line with the United Nations funding compact, to engage with Member States to consider prioritizing contributions to UNDP regular resources in a timely and predictable manner and shifting from highly earmarked to regular and flexible resources, and further encourages UNDP to continue to make efforts in terms of visibility and recognition of contributions, in particular for regular resources and other flexible contributions, with a view to incentivizing an adequate and predictable level of funding;
7. *Notes* the importance of a diverse contributor base, and encourages UNDP to continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to diversify its potential sources of funding, including the private sector, foundations, civil society, individuals, and through strengthened partnerships with international financial institutions;

8. *Notes* the importance of flexible thematic and pooled funding, which are critical for UNDP to accelerate its programming to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

9. *Encourages* UNDP to continuously strengthen and promote its funding windows as an additional flexible funding mechanism and a useful complement to regular resources;

10. *Also encourages* UNDP to continue to produce and report, through existing reporting mechanisms, on the progress and results in the implementation of its strategic plan, 2022-2025, with a view to incentivizing greater regular and other resources;

11. *Requests* that UNDP include information on the steps taken and the results achieved in the implementation of this decision in the report on the midterm review of its strategic plan, 2022-2025.

*1 September 2022*

## **2022/19**

### **UNFPA structured funding dialogue**

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue, 2021-2022 ([DP/FPA/2022/10](#)), and related annexes, as well as the substantial progress made on United Nations entity-specific commitments under the funding compact; encourages UNFPA to continue its efforts to meet the commitments under the funding compact and reaffirms the call for entities of the United Nations development system and Member States to contribute to its full and effective implementation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/233;

2. *Notes* the importance of sufficient and predictable regular (core) resources linked to intended and demonstrated results, as these are critical for UNFPA to deliver on the strategic plan, 2022-2025, respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and various humanitarian crises and to help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Recalls* decision 2021/19 on the importance of broadening the contributor base and requests UNFPA to continue engaging with Member States to consider prioritizing contributions to UNFPA regular (core) resources in a timely and predictable manner, in line with the funding compact, and requests UNFPA to continue to make efforts in terms of visibility and recognition of contributions, in particular for regular (core) resources;

4. *Notes* the importance of a diverse contributor base, and encourages UNFPA to continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to diversify its potential sources of funding, including the private sector, foundations, civil society and individuals, and through strengthened partnerships with international financial institutions;

5. *Notes* the importance of flexible thematic and pooled funding, as critical for UNFPA to be able to accelerate programming to meet the organization's three transformative results and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in those areas in which development gains have been eroded by the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises;

6. *Encourages* UNFPA to continue its dialogue with Member States, through the structured funding dialogues, on shifting from highly earmarked funds to more predictable and flexible funding, especially for core resources, and to adhere to the mutually reinforcing commitments of the funding compact.

*1 September 2022*

2022/20

**Annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2021***The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2021 (DP/OPS/2022/6);
2. *Welcomes* the data and analysis contained therein;
3. *Encourages* UNOPS to strengthen its cooperation with all United Nations system entities in order to enhance reporting on collaborative procurement and on efficiency gains achieved through this mechanism, and highlights the need for the United Nations development system to realize greater efficiency gains and increase transparent and sustainable procurement practices.

1 September 2022

2022/21

**UNOPS: Progress report on actions addressing the situation of the sustainable investment in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) initiative***The Executive Board*

1. *Recalls* decision 2022/13 and expresses its continued serious concerns with the reported irregularities, potential financial issues and alleged misconduct linked to S3i investments;
2. *Requests* that UNOPS ensures that the following funds are placed in the operational reserve and are subject to the provisions laid out in decision 2022/13:
  - (a) any funds recovered from S3i projects or proceeds from S3i investments;
  - (b) all accumulated reserves;
3. *Urges* the Acting Executive Director to take any and all measures within his remit to pursue full accountability for the failures, reported irregularities and alleged misconduct related to S3i with a view to ensuring that the real-world impact for current and future beneficiaries of UNOPS projects remains the organization's top priority;
4. *Notes with appreciation* UNOPS timely preparation and presentation of an action plan for implementing decision 2022/13;
5. *Further notes with appreciation* the provision of information by UNOPS to the working group established in Executive Board decision 2022/13 and encourages UNOPS to continue to engage with the working group and the Executive Board in an open and transparent manner;
6. *Welcomes* the working group's informal paper on options for the use of UNOPS reserves, calls upon the working group to submit its formal report to the Executive Board in advance of the first regular session 2023, and decides to take a decision on the utilization of UNOPS existing and future reserves – to be informed by the third-party assessments requested in decision 2022/13 and the working group report – at the earliest possible opportunity;
7. *Decides* to take a decision on S3i, to be informed by the third-party assessments and the working group report at the earliest possible opportunity;
8. *Decides* to hold, as per the request of the Acting Executive Director of UNOPS, a special session of the Executive Board on UNOPS-related matters at the earliest possible opportunity, following receipt by the Executive Board of the third-party reviews and any relevant information from the working group, as noted in paragraph 11 of this decision;
9. *Takes note* of UNOPS activities to urgently address the failures regarding S3i and urges UNOPS to continue to be proactive in addressing such failures and to slow the accumulation of its reserves, in consultation with and approval by the Executive Board;

10. *Notes* UNOPS activities to develop a timeline to implement all outstanding recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Joint Inspection Unit;

11. *Takes note* of the progress made by UNOPS and the working group in implementing decision 2022/13, recalling paragraphs 14a and 14b, and invites the working group, as needed and at the request of the Bureau, to present relevant information regarding the third-party reviews and options for possible actions to address the failures regarding S3i, slow the accumulation of UNOPS reserves – as well as options for the appropriate use of UNOPS reserves – and increase transparency around UNOPS management fees and pricing structure.

1 September 2022

## 2022/22

### Update on oversight matters

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the directors of the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI), the UNFPA Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIIS) and the UNOPS Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG), which provide an assessment on the degree of independence of each office as well as recommendations for improvements in administrative processes and operational arrangements, in line with decision 2022/15;

2. *Takes note* of the suggestions and pathways recommended in the assessments of the independence of OAI, OAIIS and IAIG, and of their respective management responses, and requests that: (a) UNDP and UNFPA take action, as appropriate, to implement the assessments' recommendations and report, in their management responses for the annual session in 2023, on the progress made by UNDP and UNFPA, respectively, on their implementation; and asks, in case a recommendation has not or partially been implemented or agreed to by management, the management of UNDP and UNFPA to provide explanations, in line with established practice; (b) UNOPS urgently implement all recommendations made by IAIG and that it report to the Executive Board during the annual session in 2023 on the progress made in this regard;

3. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that independent audit and investigation offices have full independence in delivering their services to provide the Executive Board, agency management and other stakeholders the necessary and appropriate assurances and advice on the governance, risk management and internal controls of the entities;

4. *Recalls* its decision 2022/15, paragraph 4, and, in this regard, welcomes more regular closed briefings from the independent audit and investigation offices in a timely manner and throughout the year, as needed, on potential red flags, emerging risks and internal control issues, audit findings and the status of investigations, with due regard for confidentiality and privacy;

5. *Also recalls* decision 2022/15, paragraph 3, and reiterates the importance of the provision of sufficient resources for audit and investigation functions in order to preserve the offices' independence, integrity and professionalism, and to allow for full, adequate and effective execution of the respective mandate of each audit and investigations office, within the established applicable budgetary process, and to update policies, where applicable;

6. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to include, as a permanent annex in their annual reports to the Executive Board, a concise agency-specific summary of the oversight functions responsible for audit, investigation, ethics, evaluation and whistle-blower protection, and also requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to ensure these summaries follow a uniform template, to be provided by the Bureau;

7. *Further requests* OAI, OAIS and IAIG to include in the executive summaries of their reports shared with the Executive Board, as appropriate, potential red flags, emerging risks and internal control issues, audit findings and the status of investigations, which require specific attention from the Executive Board;
8. *Welcomes* efforts of OAI, OAIS and IAIG to harmonize approaches between the organizations and encourages continuing these cooperation efforts to enhance effectiveness, efficiency and inter-agency learning;
9. *Requests* the Bureau of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in consultation with the relevant bureaux of United Nations development system entities, to provide options and cost estimates for an assessment, including the feasibility of a third-party assessment by an entity external to the United Nations system with independent expertise on governance and oversight, of how the Executive Board, in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS as well as the United Nations system, executes its governance and oversight functions, with a view to ensuring that these functions are aligned with the highest international standards and best practices;
10. *Further requests* the Bureau of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to present these options for consideration by the Executive Board by the first regular session 2023, with a view to providing a final assessment and relevant recommendations to the Executive Board no later than the annual session 2023;

*With regard to UNDP:*

11. *Notes with appreciation* that OAI conducted the self-assessment in compliance with the request in decision 2022/15 and in conformity with UNDP regulations and rules, policies and procedures, including the consideration of internationally recognized standards applicable for audit and investigations functions, and welcomes responses in the self-assessment report that attest to the independence of the office;

*With regard to UNFPA:*

12. *Notes with appreciation* that OAIS conducted the self-assessment in compliance with the request in decision 2022/15 and in conformity with UNFPA regulations and rules, policies and procedures, including the consideration of internationally recognized standards applicable for audit and investigations functions, and welcomes responses in the self-assessment report that attest to the independence of the office;

*With regard to UNOPS:*

13. *Endorses* IAIG revised audit charter and requests the Acting Executive Director of UNOPS to promulgate it without further notice;
14. *Expresses* concern about the observations outlined in the assessment of the independence of the IAIG;
15. *Urges* UNOPS to promote the independence and integrity of IAIG, and to restore and continuously strengthen its organizational culture with regard to ethics, transparency and integrity;
16. *Recognizes* the recent efforts made by the Director of IAIG to establish regular meetings and interactions with the Executive Board and encourages him to maintain the relationship with the Board.

*1 September 2022*

2022/23

**Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2022**

*The Executive Board*

Recalls that during its second regular session 2022, it:

**Item 1**

**Organizational matters**

Adopted the agenda and approved the workplan for the second regular session 2022 (DP/2022/L.3);

Adopted the report of the annual session 2022 (DP/2022/26);

Agreed with the tentative workplan for the first regular session 2023;

**UNDP segment**

**Item 2**

**Structured funding dialogue**

Adopted decision 2022/18 on the UNDP structured funding dialogue;

**Item 3**

**UNDP country programmes and related matters**

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

*Africa region:* Ghana (DP/DCP/GHA/4), Niger (DP/DCP/NER/4), South Sudan (DP/DCP/SSD/4), Zambia (DP/DCP/ZMB/4);

*Asia-Pacific region:* India (DP/DCP/IND/4), Mongolia (DP/DCP/MNG/4), Pakistan (DP/DCP/PAK/3), Sri Lanka (DP/DCP/LKA/4);

*Arab States region:* Egypt (DP/DCP/EGY/4), Jordan (DP/DCP/JOR/4), Libya (DP/DCP/LBY/4), Saudi Arabia (DP/DCP/SAU/4), Yemen (DP/DCP/YEM/3);

*Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region:* Kyrgyzstan (DP/DCP/KGZ/4), Montenegro (DP/DCP/MNE/3), Republic of Moldova (DP/DCP/MDA/4), Tajikistan (DP/DCP/TAJ/3);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Guinea, Myanmar and Ukraine (DP/2022/30).

Approved the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burkina Faso, Chad and the Sudan (DP/2022/30);

**UNFPA segment**

**Item 4**

**UNFPA structured funding dialogue**

Adopted decision 2022/19 on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue;

**Item 14**

**UNFPA country programmes and related matters**

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

Ghana (DP/FPA/CPD/GHA/8); India (DP/FPA/CPD/IND/10);

Jordan (DP/FPA/CPD/JOR/10); Kyrgyzstan (DP/FPA/CPD/KGZ/5);

Republic of Moldova (DP/FPA/CPD/MDA/4);

Mongolia (DP/FPA/CPD/MNG/7); Morocco (DP/FPA/CPD/MAR/10);

Niger (DP/FPA/CPD/NER/10); Pakistan (DP/FPA/CPD/PAK/10);



South Sudan (DP/FPA/CPD/SSD/4); Sri Lanka (DP/FPA/CPD/LKA/10);  
Tajikistan (DP/FPA/CPD/TJK/5); Yemen (DP/FPA/CPD/YEM/6);  
Zambia (DP/FPA/CPD/ZMB/9)

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Angola, Guinea, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Ukraine, (DP/FPA/2022/11).

Approved the first two-year extension of the country programme for Djibouti and the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burkina Faso, Chad, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Sudan (DP/FPA/2022/11);

## UNOPS segment

### Item 6

#### Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2022/20 on the annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2021;

Adopted decision 2022/21, entitled UNOPS: Progress report on actions addressing the situation of the sustainable investment in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) initiative;

## Joint segment

### Item 7

#### Update on oversight matters

Adopted decision 2022/22, update on oversight matters;

### Item 8

#### Field visits

Took note of the report of the Executive Board field visit to Bangladesh (DP/FPA/OPS/2022/CRP.1).

*1 September 2022*

## 2022/24

### Third-party reviews of the effectiveness of the UNOPS oversight mechanisms for the Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation (S3i) initiative and UNOPS internal control systems, risk management and overall governance structures

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Recalls* decisions 2022/13 and 2022/21, and expresses its continued serious concerns with the irregularities, financial issues and misconduct linked to S3i investments;
2. *Welcomes* the KPMG third-party review on the effectiveness of UNOPS oversight mechanisms that existed for S3i investments, and also welcomes the KPMG review of UNOPS internal control systems, risk management and overall governance structures;
3. *Takes note* with great concern of the observations, findings and conclusions in the KPMG reviews, and the scale of the recommendations;
4. *Underlines* the conclusion in the KPMG reviews suggesting that UNOPS refocus on its original mandate of providing infrastructure, procurement and project management services, including to the United Nations system, and requests that the Acting Executive Director, and any forthcoming Executive Director, proceed accordingly prior to the Executive Board deciding on strategic priorities, use of reserves and the future of the S3i initiative;
5. *Welcomes* the UNOPS decision to suspend any form of impact investment and requests that UNOPS further clarify in an information note its role in blended and impact financing prior to its first regular session 2023;

6. *Approves* the creation of a second deputy executive director position;
7. *Recognizes* that fully addressing irregularities within UNOPS is required for trust to be restored, and appreciates the steps already undertaken by the Acting Executive Director, as well as UNOPS staff, in cooperation with the Executive Board and its working group;
8. *Recalls* decision 2022/21, paragraph 3, and underlines the importance of accountability in reforming UNOPS organizational culture, oversight structures and management, and requests that UNOPS take all measures necessary within its remit to recover all funds and ensure full accountability, including individual accountability, in accordance with United Nations staff regulations and rules;
9. *Requests* that the UNOPS Director of the Internal Audit and Investigation Group consider initiating forensic audits into the S3i initiative and associated management failures to further pursue fact-finding and accountability, including individual accountability, in accordance with United Nations staff regulations and rules, with a view to the Acting Executive Director, and any forthcoming Executive Director, pursuing disciplinary measures, and where applicable referring the potential findings to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs;
10. *Recalls* decision 2022/22, paragraph 3, and underlines the importance for independent audit and investigation offices to have full independence in delivering their services, and requests that the Acting Executive Director, and any forthcoming Executive Director, take necessary measures for that purpose, including sufficient financial and human resources;
11. *Notes* the need for further consideration by the Executive Board of the recommendations from the KPMG reviews on UNOPS governance structure, addressed to the Executive Board;
12. *Requests* that the Acting Executive Director, and any forthcoming Executive Director, in cooperation with the UNOPS Ethics Office, overhaul the speak-up, whistleblowing process completely and to establish a clear, centralized and uniform process that encourages reporting and safeguards fair and confidential treatment of all reports with appropriate rules and protocols, in line with United Nations system best practices, in accordance with and in follow up to decision 2022/16, paragraph 9;
13. *Takes note* of the draft response plan provided by the Acting Executive Director and requests the inclusion of all recommendations of the two KPMG reviews in a comprehensive response plan, along with a clear timeline for the implementation of relevant recommendations, including organizational ownership and prioritization of recommendations, and a publicly accessible online monitoring platform, at the first regular session 2023;
14. *Further requests* that the Acting Executive Director, and any forthcoming Executive Director, provide monthly briefings on the status of implementation of Executive Board decisions and the recommendations of the KPMG reviews to the Executive Board until the annual session 2023;
15. *Agrees* to consider at the first regular session 2023, the working group's mandate and membership, after submission of its final report pursuant to decision 2022/21, with a view to facilitating closer follow up and coordination with UNOPS on the comprehensive response plan for the implementation of Executive Board decisions and the recommendations of the KPMG reviews;
16. *Reaffirms* its decision 2022/13, paragraph 8, and decides on the continuation of the temporary measures indicated therein, until otherwise decided by the Executive Board;
17. *Requests* that UNOPS, following an inclusive consultation process with the Executive Board and within UNOPS:
  - (a) provide, no later than the first regular session 2023, a draft framework for a revised strategic plan, 2022-2025, in line with KPMG recommendations;
  - (b) present to the Executive Board at its annual session 2023 a thorough midterm review of the strategic plan, 2022-2025, and its annexes;

(c) submit separately a final draft strategic plan, 2022-2025, including a prioritization of its programme activities and improvements to oversight functions, for Executive Board approval at its annual session 2023;

18. *Requests* that UNOPS commission an external third-party review at the end of the implementation period of the comprehensive response plan;

19. *Requests* that the following items be included as agenda items for decision at the first regular session 2023: (a) the future of the S3i initiative and impact investments in UNOPS; (b) the definition and use of UNOPS excess reserves; and (c) update on the implementation of the comprehensive response plan.

*30 November 2022*

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