



**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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Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2023

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2023/1

Reports of UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2021

The Executive Board

1. *Notes* the unqualified audit opinions on UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2021;
2. *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;
3. *Calls on* UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS to state the impacts of implemented recommendations, including on organizational culture, in its reporting on audit recommendations;

With regard to UNDP:

4. *Takes note of* the UNDP commitment to integrate the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, in accordance with its financial regulations and rules, in its new procurement strategy, and takes note of the UNDP commitment to make this strategy publicly available to ensure full transparency;
5. *Requests* UNDP to continue assessing matters which may affect the implementation of the general procurement principles (i.e., best value for money, fairness, integrity and transparency, effective international competition, the interest of UNDP) outlined in the UNDP financial regulations and rules;
6. *Notes* that audit findings and recommendations regarding the UNDP system of financial internal control is a recurring area in Board of Auditors reports over the last years and that the Board of Auditors has chosen to reiterate a recommendation from 2018 regarding the need for enhancing this, and calls on UNDP to increase its focus on measures targeted towards strengthening the systems for financial internal control;
7. *Takes note of* the long-standing Board of Auditors recommendations concerning fraud prevention and welcomes the recent achievements of UNDP in addressing these while also encouraging UNDP to continue its efforts to strengthen this area;

With regard to UNFPA:

8. *Acknowledges* the high rate of implementation of recommendations by UNFPA in the last three consecutive years;

With regard to UNOPS:

9. *Notes with serious concern* the “emphasis of matter” issued by the Board of Auditors for 2021 related to the sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) initiative and urges UNOPS to accelerate the implementation of all recommendations contained in the report;
10. *Notes with concern* the finding regarding weaknesses in decision-making, management and internal controls related to the projects “We are the Oceans” and “Ocean Generation”, and strongly encourages UNOPS to establish a compliance and accountability mechanism to avoid the recurrence of such issues;
11. *Notes* the Board of Auditors recommendation regarding the high use of individual contractor agreements and encourages UNOPS to ensure that all positions that entail “inherently United Nations activities” are filled with staff members and to limit the use of individual contractor agreement to the greatest extent possible.

3 February 2023

2023/2**UNDP evaluation***The Executive Board*

With regard to the formative evaluation of the integration by UNDP of the principles of leaving no one behind (DP/2023/8) and the management response thereto (DP/2023/9):

1. *Takes note* of the formative evaluation of the integration by UNDP of the principles of leaving no one behind and the management response;
2. *Welcomes* the formative nature of the evaluation and its findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons, acknowledging the important role and contribution of UNDP to leaving no one behind;
3. *Urges* UNDP to accelerate further action on reaching the furthest behind first, advancing a systems-thinking approach and strengthening intersectionality;
4. *Requests* UNDP to continue developing evidence-based guidance and tools to enhance staff capacity through the development of intersectional approaches when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development programmes;
5. *Urges* UNDP to further advocate the leaving no one behind agenda on forward-looking approaches for advancing equity, equality and non-discrimination, including through intersectionality;
6. *Urges* UNDP to expand its partnerships with non-governmental actors, in support of the delivery of the UNDP country programmes and of the UNDP Strategic Plan, particularly at the country level;
7. *Urges* UNDP to further consider the integration of the principles of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first in its resource mobilization strategies and resource allocation, bearing in mind multidimensional criteria, while recognizing that adequate, flexible and predictable funding enables UNDP to integrate those principles in its programmatic work in a more cohesive and balanced manner.

3 February 2023

2023/3**Report of the working group on UNOPS***The Executive Board*

1. *Recalls* its decision 2022/13 on the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) reserve;
2. *Welcomes* the report of the working group formed in response to decision 2022/13 (DP/OPS/2023/2) and expresses appreciation to the members of the working group for their timely and detailed report;
3. *Takes note* of the reactions of the working group in response to the KPMG recommendations contained in the report and reiterates its decision 2022/24 on the two KPMG third-party reviews;
4. *Recalls* decisions 2022/13 and 2022/24 and welcomes the cooperation between the working group and UNOPS management;
5. *Reaffirms* decision 2022/24, paragraph 11, on the need for further consideration by the Executive Board of the recommendations from the KPMG

third-party reviews on UNOPS governance structure, addressed to the Executive Board;

6. *Decides* to dissolve the working group, established by the Executive Board in its decision 2022/13, paragraph 10.

3 February 2023

2023/4

UNOPS update on the implementation of the comprehensive response plan, use of reserve and impact investments in UNOPS

The Executive Board

With regard to restating the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and road map for the midterm review+ process

1. *Takes note* of the information note DP/OPS/2023/CRP. 2, the framework for restating the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including a road map for the midterm review+ process;

2. *Requests* that UNOPS proceed with preparations for a midterm review+ and restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, in accordance with its proposal as contained in the information note;

With regard to issues concerning the future of S3i and impact investing and blended finance by UNOPS:

3. *Takes note* of the information note DP/OPS/2023/CRP.1 on UNOPS role in blended and impact financing, as requested in decision 2022/24;

4. *Requests* that UNOPS organize an informal briefing in hybrid format, before the informal consultation with the Executive Board on the midterm review+ process, at the latest by the end of February 2023, to provide further information on existing elements of innovative, blended and impact finance in UNOPS portfolio based on the multifaceted portfolio analysis, and on the current organizational capacity;

5. *Welcomes* UNOPS implementation of Board decision 2022/24 to disengage from any direct impact investment finance and underlines the need to refocus on UNOPS original mandate, providing technical expertise in infrastructure, procurement and project management;

6. *Reaffirms* and *emphasizes* that UNOPS does not have a programmatic mandate and is a demand-driven United Nations entity providing infrastructure, procurement and project management services as its original mandate;

7. *Discourages* UNOPS from initiating any new initiative in the area of innovative, blended or impact financing pending the approval of the restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;

8. *Requests* that UNOPS management implement all outstanding S3i-related recommendations and actions contained in the comprehensive response plan without delay and work towards completely phasing out the S3i initiative;

With regard to the comprehensive response plan:

9. *Welcomes* the comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two KPMG independent third-party reviews as presented in a publicly accessible online monitoring platform, in line with decision 2022/24;

10. *Further requests* that UNOPS update its comprehensive response plan elaborating on the prioritization, timelines of implementation, and costing of all outstanding action items, and reflect this in the online monitoring tool, and inform the Executive Board when this has been completed in the monthly update briefings;

11. *Recalls* decision 2022/24 to provide monthly briefings on the status of the implementation of Executive Board decisions and the recommendations of the KPMG reviews to the Executive Board until the annual session 2023, and further requests that UNOPS extend monthly briefings until the first regular session 2024;

12. *Decides* to include an item for decision on the comprehensive response plan on the agenda of every session of the Board throughout the duration of the implementation period;

13. *Recalls* its decisions 2022/21 and 2022/24 requesting 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, and further requests that UNOPS provide the Executive Board by the annual session 2023, including potentially through confidential briefings, with any additional available information about progress and the costs associated with the recovery of S3i-related funds;

With regard to UNOPS reserves and use thereof:

14. *Recalls* decision 2022/13 to freeze all transfers out of the operational reserve for any purpose other than daily operations;

15. *Reaffirms* that all necessary organizational investment requirements and other expenses required to keep UNOPS fit-for-purpose should be included in the financial biennium that is approved by the Executive Board;

16. *Requests* that going forward UNOPS set its fees to ensure it has the financial means required to maintain the minimum operational reserve level and make any organizational investment, as per the biennial budget estimates, while eliminating any accumulation of reserves over and above the minimum operational reserve, and in this regard requests an informal briefing before the annual session 2023 on adjustments made to the UNOPS cost recovery model;

17. *Decides* to approve the allocation of a maximum sum of \$35.4 million to be distributed in tranches to UNOPS from the operational reserve towards the implementation of defined elements of the comprehensive response plan, and as detailed in the UNOPS financial outlook for 2023;

18. *Approves* one immediate single transfer of \$11.8 million, of the maximum sum of \$35.4 million, out of the operational reserve into the UNOPS budget to allow for the initial implementation of defined elements of the comprehensive response plan, and as detailed in the UNOPS financial outlook for 2023, for which no resources are available in the existing 2023 regular budget;

19. *Decides* to release subsequent tranches at the request of UNOPS, at a formal session in 2023, contingent upon demonstrated progress in implementing the comprehensive response plan and the provision of information on how the previous tranche was utilized;

20. *Further requests* that UNOPS provide the Executive Board with detailed information on the timelines of anticipated and actual expenditures, progress of implementation, and results achieved with these expenditures during the monthly update briefings to the Executive Board as well as during the updates to the Executive Board requested in paragraph 11 of this decision;

21. *Decides* that UNOPS distribute to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, its excess reserves, defined as total accumulated reserves minus the minimum operational reserve, as established by the Executive Board in its decision 2021/21;

22. *Requests* that UNOPS distribute without delay its excess reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021, minus \$35.4 million, to each paying entity, including those of the United Nations system, based on the management fees generated from each paying entity

as a proportional share of total management fees received by UNOPS from 1 January 2018 through 31 December 2021 (four calendar years);

23. *Directs* UNOPS to proceed with the request in paragraph 22 with the understanding that total accumulated reserves as of 31 December 2021 minus the minimum operational reserve and minus \$35.4 million would be fully distributed;

24. *Decides* to take a decision at the annual session 2023 on the distribution to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, of excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021, on the basis of additional information provided by UNOPS in its monthly update briefings or as requested by the Executive Board, including the Bureau of the Board.

3 February 2023

2023/5

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

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2023, it:

Item 1

Organizational matters

Elected on 10 January 2023 the following members of the Bureau for 2023:

President:	H.E. Mr. Martin Kimani (Kenya)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Muhammad Muhith (Bangladesh)
Vice-President:	H.E. Ms. Maritza Chan (Costa Rica)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya (Ukraine)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Feridun Sinirlioğlu (Türkiye)

Adopted the agenda (DP/2023/L.1) and approved the workplan for its first regular session 2023;

Approved the report of the second regular session 2022 (DP/2023/1) and the special session 2022 (DP/2023/2);

Adopted the annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2023 (DP/2023/CRP.1);

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2023;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2023:

Annual session:	5 to 9 June 2023
Second regular session:	28 August to 1 September 2023.

Joint segment

Item 2

Update on UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS engagement with the international financial institutions

Took note of the update on UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS engagement with the international financial institutions

Item 3
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Adopted decision 2023/1 on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors reports of UNDP (DP/2023/5), UNCDF (DP/2023/6), UNFPA (DP/FPA/2023/1) and UNOPS (DP/OPS/2023/1) on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2022;

Item 4
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/2023/1);

Item 5
Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

Took note of the joint update on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;

UNDP segment

Item 6
Human Development Report

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

Item 7
UNDP country programmes and related matters

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

Africa: Cabo Verde (common country programme, DP/FPA-ICEF/CCPD/2023/CPV/1); Central African Republic (DP/DCP/CAF/5), Gabon (DP/DCP/GAB/4), Nigeria (DP/DCP/NGA/4), São Tomé and Príncipe (DP/DCP/STP/4);

Arab States: Algeria (DP/DCP/DZA/4), Lebanon (DP/DCP/LBN/3), Morocco (DP/DCP/MAR/4);

Asia-Pacific: Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/DCP/IRN/4); Nepal (DP/DCP/NPL/4); Pacific islands countries (multi-country programme, DP/DSP/PIC/3);

Latin America and the Caribbean: Plurinational State of Bolivia (DP/DCP/BOL/4); Costa Rica (DP/DCP/CRI/4); Dominican Republic (DP/DCP/DOM/4); Ecuador (DP/DCP/ECU/4 and Corr.1); Haiti (DP/DCP/HTI/4); Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (DP/DCP/VEN/3);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programme for Mauritania (DP/2023/7) and the first six-month extension of the country programme for Chile (DP/2023/7/Add.1);

Approved the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan, Brazil and Gambia from 1 January to 31 December 2023, the two-year extension of the country programme for Bahrain from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024, and the second six-month extension of the country programme for Papua New Guinea from 1 January to 31 December 2023 (DP/2023/7);

Item 8**UNDP evaluation**

Adopted decision 2023/2 on the formative evaluation of the integration by UNDP of the principles of leaving no one behind ([DP/2023/8](#)) and the management response thereto ([DP/2023/9](#));

UNFPA segment**Item 9****Evaluation**

Took note of the formative evaluation of the UNFPA engagement in the reform of the United Nations development system ([DP/FPA/2023/CRP.1](#)) and the management [response](#) to the evaluation.

Item 10**Country programmes and related matters**

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

Arab States: Algeria ([DP/FPA/CPD/DZA/7](#)), Egypt ([DP/FPA/CPD/EGY/11](#)); Lebanon ([DP/FPA/CPD/LBN/5](#)), State of Palestine ([DP/FPA/CPD/PSE/7](#));

Asia and the Pacific: Islamic Republic of Iran ([DP/FPA/CPD/IRN/7](#)); Nepal ([DP/FPA/CPD/NPL/9](#)); Pacific Island countries and territories (multi-country programme) ([DP.FPA.CPD.PIC.7](#));

Latin America and the Caribbean: the Plurinational State of Bolivia ([DP/FPA/CPD/BOL/7](#)); Costa Rica ([DP/FPA/CPD/CRI/6](#)); Dominican Republic ([DP/FPA/CPD/DOM/7](#)); Ecuador ([DP/FPA/CPD/ECU/8](#)); Haiti ([DP/FPA/CPD/HTI/7](#)); and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela ([DP/FPA/CPD/VEN/4](#) and [DP/FPA/CPD/VEN/4/Corr.1](#));

West and Central Africa: Cabo Verde (common country programme) ([DP/FPA-ICEF/CCPD/2023/CPV/1](#)); Central African Republic ([DP/FPA/CPD/CAF.9](#)); Gabon ([DP/FPA/CPD/GAB/8](#)); Nigeria ([DP/FPA/CPD/NGA/9](#)); Sao Tome and Principe ([DP/FPA/CPD/STP/8](#));

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programme for Mauritania and Rwanda ([DP/FPA/2023/2](#));

Approved the second extensions of the country programmes for Brazil, the Gambia and Papua New Guinea and the third extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan and Libya ([DP/FPA/2023/2](#)).

UNOPS segment**Item 11****United Nations Office for Project Services**

Adopted decision 2023/3 on the report of the working group on UNOPS ([DP/OPS/2023/2](#));

Adopted decision 2023/4 on the UNOPS update on the implementation of the comprehensive response plan, use of reserve and impact investments in UNOPS;

Item 12
Other matters

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

3 February 2023

2023/6
Update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system*The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the updates provided by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 and related mandates on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
2. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to the United Nations development system repositioning and encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to work closely with other United Nations development system entities, under the leadership of the resident coordinators in the country, to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and national plans, needs and priorities;
3. *Recalls* its decision 2022/14 and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to implement General Assembly resolutions 72/279, 75/233 and 76/4 and to support the efforts of the United Nations development system in implementing related mandates;
4. *Calls on* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to strengthen efforts to implement the Management and Accountability Framework, notes the evolving nature of the Framework and calls on the organizations to share their experiences in implementing the Framework at all levels;
5. *Recalls* decision 2022/14 and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to include contributions of representatives at the country level and regional directors to the implementation of United Nations development system reform within existing reporting;
6. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to report annually on the complete United Nations development system reform checklist as an annex to existing reporting on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system;
7. *Also requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to strive for inter-agency harmonization of reporting on implementation efforts and results of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including improved delivery of development programming at the country level;
8. *Recalls* decision 2022/14, stresses the importance of integrated solutions to address complex, multi-faceted challenges impacting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to strengthen collaboration in joint analysis, needs assessments, planning, including collective outcomes, and programme delivery, and update the Board within existing reporting mechanisms;

9. *Further requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to update the Executive Board annually on their implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and to include this as an item for decision during the annual session.

9 June 2023

2023/7

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

The Executive Board

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

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

With regard to UNDP:

11. *Takes note* of the continued high number of audit recommendations related to programme management, procurement and financial management, including management of implementing partners, and encourages UNDP to take continued steps to address recurring recommendations;

12. *Requests* OAI to share with the Executive Board its implementation plan for the recommendations made by the Institute for Internal Auditors in the 2022 external quality assessment, following decision 2022/15, and report on progress on implementation;

With regard to UNFPA:

13. *Notes with concern* the increasing backlog of investigation cases, and requests OAIS to continue streamlining investigation procedures and to address the reduction of cases as a matter of high priority;

14. *Recognizes* the efforts of OAIS and UNFPA management in implementing the recommendations contained in the self-assessment by OAIS of its independence, as requested in Executive Board decision 2022/22;

With regard to UNOPS:

15. *Takes note* of IAIG compliance with international standards, as confirmed in an external quality assessment of its audit function;

16. *Welcomes* the progress made in strengthening IAIG and encourages UNOPS management to further ensure the independence of IAIG and to equip IAIG with all necessary resources to adequately perform its mandate;

17. *Urges* UNOPS management to take all necessary measures to address the overall opinion of IAIG that the adequacy and effectiveness of UNOPS governance, risk management and control processes were only partially satisfactory with major improvement needed;

18. *Further urges* UNOPS management to take all necessary measures to address the reoccurring key audit findings on grant management, project expenditure, procurement, human resources and recruitment;

19. *Notes with concern* that there are still limitations to the independence of IAIG;

20. *Recalls* decision 22/2022, paragraph 15, and reiterates to management the importance of UNOPS continuing to change and strengthen its organizational culture with regard to transparency, accountability, ethics and integrity;

21. *Takes note* of the revised terms of reference of the Audit Advisory Committee.

9 June 2023

2023/8**Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, and management responses***The Executive Board*

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

With regard to UNOPS:

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

9 June 2023

2023/9**Joint update on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment***The Executive Board*

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

year-on-year progress against indicators, allow for enhanced comparison of reports and gain a more strategic understanding of the results, impact and organizational culture change achieved from their efforts and activities;

6. *Also encourages* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to further increase their system-wide collaboration efforts to improve coordination, reporting and transparency and to work together effectively at country, regional and global levels to ensure optimal learning from lessons learned and best practices from the entire United Nations system;

7. *Welcomes* the continued use of ClearCheck, and invites UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to examine how ClearCheck and the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme can be used to complement each other to further improve vetting and to provide an update to the Board;

8. *Further encourages* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to consider piloting the scheme and report any results within existing reporting;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to conduct risk assessments in respect of sexual exploitation and abuse, to work with implementing partners to assess and support their capacity to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and to address the rights of victims/survivors to support and assistance, in accordance with the United Nations protocol on the provision of assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

9 June 2023

2023/10

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

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Administrator for 2022 and its annexes (DP/2023/14), the report of UNDP on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2021 (DP/2022/17/Add.1) and the statistical annex (DP/2022/17/Add.2);

2. *Commends* the continuing progress made by UNDP in 2022, the first year of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, towards becoming a fully agile, innovative and resilient organization capable of providing effective local and global integrated solutions that advance sustainable development, particularly in the face of the global reversal of human development for two years running;

3. *Takes note* of the programmatic and institutional results achieved in 2022 on poverty and inequality, innovative development financing, digitalization, climate action, social protection, and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, while also noting the need to scale up efforts for economic empowerment for all;

4. *Recognizes* the overarching role of UNDP in poverty eradication and reducing inequalities, and encourages UNDP to further its efforts in this regard; and to strengthen the capacities of countries at all levels, including institutions and people, to accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development; and to prevent, mitigate and respond to risks, including crisis, conflict, natural disasters, climate and social and economic shocks, in line with the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;

5. *Recognizes* that in 2022, UNDP achieved its highest-ever level of programme delivery, meeting 95 per cent of planned programmatic targets for the year and reaching tens of millions of people, including those left furthest behind;
6. *Expresses concern* with the current low level and continued decline of regular (core) resources, as these are critical for UNDP to deliver on the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, respond to the effects of multiple crises, help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and maintain robust internal control and accountability systems;
7. *Welcomes* the continued strong commitment of UNDP to the United Nations development system repositioning, and encourages UNDP to continue to work closely with other United Nations organizations, based on each agency's respective comparative advantages and mandates, under the coordination of the resident coordinators in country, to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and national development needs, plans and priorities;
8. *Recognizes* the ambitious targets set out in the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and urges continued commitment to: results-based programmes; results-driven, cohesive portfolio approaches; agile, effective and efficient operations; and multi-stakeholder partnerships that can help to unlock systemic transformation towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9 June 2023

2023/11

UNDP evaluation

The Executive Board

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

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

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

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

5. *Welcomes* the evaluation as the first dedicated global assessment by the Independent Evaluation Office on UNDP support to social protection, and encourages UNDP and its partners to use the evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations, while noting the programmatic areas identified for consolidation and strengthening;

6. *Requests* UNDP to explore the convergence between social protection and programmes in other areas and to strengthen the connection between social protection and just and green transition, as well as the linkages between humanitarian assistance and national social protection systems at the country level;

7. *Requests* UNDP to continue strengthening its support to digitalization for social protection and to gender-responsive social protection;

8. *Encourages* UNDP to provide practical guidance for strategic positioning in different country contexts and explore partnerships to allow a more holistic and integrated approach in supporting national social protection systems;

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

9. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to access to justice and the management response thereon;

10. *Welcomes* the evaluation as the first dedicated global assessment by the Independent Evaluation Office on access to justice, and encourages UNDP and its partners to use the evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations to inform future work by UNDP in this area;

11. *Acknowledges* the results achieved by UNDP in promoting access to justice, especially for those furthest behind;

12. *Encourages* UNDP to enhance its capacities as a provider of technical assistance on access to justice, and reinforce the dialogue with other United Nations stakeholders and bilateral partners to address persistent challenges to access to justice;

13. *Urges* UNDP to continue to strengthen the use of monitoring, evaluation and evidence in programming to promote a fuller understanding of its contribution to effective, people-centred and fair justice processes;

14. *Invites* UNDP to continue to promote rights-based, people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented approaches to digitization, and to strengthen synergies between justice programmes and other areas of work.

9 June 2023

2023/12

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

The Executive Board

1. *Commends* the progress made by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in implementing its strategic framework, 2022-2025;

2. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the UNCDF strategic framework and the position and role it sets for the organization within the United Nations development system, and requests UNCDF to provide the Executive Board with an informal briefing on developments within the organization no later than the second regular session in 2023;

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

9 June 2023

2023/13

United Nations Volunteers programme: Annual report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

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

9 June 2023

2023/14

UNFPA: Annual report of the Executive Director

The Executive Board

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

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

9 June 2023

2023/15

UNFPA evaluation

The Executive Board

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

9 June 2023

2023/16

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

The Executive Board

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

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

9 June 2023

2023/17

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

The Executive Board

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

9 June 2023

2023/18**UNOPS distribution to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, of excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021***The Executive Board*

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

For all excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021:

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

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

9 June 2023

2023/19

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

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2023, it:

Item 1

Organizational matters

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

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

Adopted the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2023;

Joint segment

Item 2

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

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

Item 3

Internal audit and investigation

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

Item 4

Ethics

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

Item 5

Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

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

UNDP segment

Item 6

Annual report of the Administrator

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

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

Item 7
Gender equality at UNDP

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

Item 8
UNDP evaluation

Adopted decision 2023/11 on UNDP evaluation;

Item 9
UNDP country programmes and related matters

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

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

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

Item 10
United Nations Capital Development Fund

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

Item 11
United Nations Volunteers programme

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

UNFPA segment

Item 12
Annual report of the Executive Director

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

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

Item 13
UNFPA evaluation

Adopted decision 2023/15 on UNFPA evaluation;

Item 14
UNFPA country programmes and related matters

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

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

UNOPS segment

Item 15

Annual report of the UNOPS Executive Director

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

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

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

9 June 2023

2023/20

Structured funding dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the report on the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 ([DP/2023/26](#)) and its annexes;
2. *Commends* the substantial progress made on United Nations entity-specific commitments under the funding compact, encourages UNDP to continue its efforts to meet the commitments under the funding compact and reaffirms the call, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/233, for entities of the United Nations development system and Member States to contribute to its full and effective implementation;
3. *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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and multiple crises, help to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and maintain robust internal control and accountability systems;
4. *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;
5. *Notes with appreciation* that annex III of the report on the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 ([DP/2023/26](#)) provides, pursuant to decision 2022/18, a detailed analysis of the factors contributing to the decline of regular (core) resources and the potential implications on the ability of UNDP to deliver on its Strategic Plan; and takes note of the recommendations on measures to address this, which should be taken by UNDP and could be considered by Member States;
6. *Emphasizes* the importance of an integrated approach to reporting and requests that both the report on the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP strategic plan and the annual report of the Administrator include information on total resources budgeted and disbursed for each development output (signature solutions) of the integrated results and resources framework;
7. *Recalls* the importance of funding predictability and multi-year contributions for 2023 and future years to enable UNDP to respond to the evolving needs of programme countries with agility and reduce the risk of jeopardizing its ability to achieve the results of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;

8. *Encourages* UNDP 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;
9. *Notes* the importance of effective and efficient collaboration with international financial institutions and requests that UNDP, on an annual basis within existing reporting, provide further detail to the Executive Board on joint plans, frameworks and tools underpinning this collaboration, as well as relevant results and outcomes attained;
10. *Notes* the importance of flexible thematic and pooled funding, which complement regular (core) resources and are critical for UNDP to accelerate programming to meet the Sustainable Development Goals;
11. *Recalls* decision 2022/18, to continuously strengthen and promote its funding windows as an additional flexible funding mechanism and a useful complement to regular resources, and requests a briefing to the Executive Board on how flexible funding modalities, including the funding windows, contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;
12. *Welcomes* the shift towards portfolios by UNDP and urges UNDP to continue its engagement with Member States, through structured funding dialogues, on shifting from highly earmarked to regular and flexible resources and adhering to the mutually reinforcing commitments of the funding compact, and in this regard, looks forward to UNDP continuing to provide information on programme results achieved with the funding provided;
13. *Approves* the exceptional variation from the core programme budget allocation framework to address the 2023 shortfall in the UNDP contribution to the cost sharing of the resident coordinator system as outlined in the present report, and requests that UNDP inform the Board if future variations are anticipated and whether adjustments to the framework are needed.

31 August 2023

2023/21

Report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue, 2022-2023

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue, 2022-2023 ([DP/FPA/2023/8](#)) and related annexes;
2. *Commends* 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;
3. *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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and various humanitarian crises and help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
4. *Recalls* the importance of broadening the contributor base and encourages UNFPA to engage with Member States to consider prioritizing contributions to UNFPA regular resources in a timely and predictable manner, in line with the United Nations funding compact, and also encourages UNFPA to continue to make efforts in terms of visibility and recognition of contributions, particularly for regular resources;

5. *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;
6. *Notes* the importance of effective and efficient collaboration with international financial institutions and requests that UNFPA, on an annual basis within existing reporting, provide further detail to the Executive Board on joint plans, frameworks and tools underpinning this collaboration, as well as relevant results and outcomes attained;
7. *Notes* the importance of flexible thematic and pooled funding as critical for UNFPA to be able to accelerate programming to meet the three UNFPA transformative results and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in those areas in which development gains have been eroded by the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple crises;
8. *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 regular (core) resources, and to adhere to the mutually reinforcing commitments of the funding compact.

31 August 2023

2023/22

UNOPS budget estimates for the biennium 2024-2025

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the UNOPS budget estimates, 2024-2025 ([DP/OPS/2023/7](#)), and its annexes, as well as of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([DP/OPS/2023/8](#));
2. *Approves* the net-zero revenue target for the biennium, 2024-2025;
3. *Reiterates* the need for UNOPS to return to and remain within its original mandate of providing infrastructure, procurement and project management services, as stated in General Assembly resolution 65/176 of 20 December 2010;
4. *Notes* the estimated project expenses and requests UNOPS to provide, during a briefing before the first regular session 2024, information on the project portfolio underlying the biennium budget estimates, 2024-2025 and its alignment to UNOPS original mandate and its restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, as per decision 2023/16, including detailing the nature of services provided;
5. *Recalls* decision 2020/12 in which the Executive Board approved harmonized approaches for cost classification, results-based budgeting and budget presentation, and welcomes the alignment of the UNOPS budget with the harmonized presentation adopted by UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);
6. *Endorses* the approach for setting indirect cost-recovery rates based on required revenue needs;
7. *Underlines* the need for full cost recovery, direct and indirect, to fully fund the investments needed to restore the operational and organizational capacity of UNOPS, and to ensure fully functional accountability structures of the highest international standard;
8. *Also endorses* the two-year aspiration of UNOPS with respect to its management results and the targeting of resources to support its contribution and management goals;
9. *Takes note* of the estimated composition of net assets following decisions 2021/21, 2022/13 and 2023/4;

10. *Recalls* decisions 2022/13 and 2023/18 to freeze all transfers out of the operational reserve for any purpose other than daily operations;
11. *Approves* the release of committed sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) initiative funds to the operational reserve;
12. *Recalls* decision 2023/4 to approve the allocation of \$35.4 million from the operational reserve towards the implementation of the comprehensive response plan, to be distributed to UNOPS in tranches, with an initial transfer of \$11.8 million;
13. *Takes note* of and approves the request by UNOPS to carry forward the balance of \$23.6 million of the allocated sum of \$35.4 million for use within the current Strategic Plan cycle, 2022-2025;
14. *Takes note* of the request from UNOPS to release \$23.6 million out of the \$35.4 million committed in the operational reserve, and approves the release of \$11.8 million into the UNOPS biennium budget for 2024-2025 to continue the implementation of the comprehensive response plan;
15. *Decides* to release further tranches at the request of UNOPS at a future formal session contingent upon demonstrated progress in implementing the comprehensive response plan and the provision of information on how the previous tranche was utilized;
16. *Recalls* decision 2023/18, in which the Executive Board decided that UNOPS will propose, for approval of the Board during every second regular session at which the UNOPS budget for the subsequent biennium is considered, methodologies and time frames for the distribution of excess reserves accumulated in the then ongoing budget cycle;
17. *Endorses* the proposed methodology and time frame for distributing, within 12 months following receipt of the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the financial period of 2023, any excess reserves accumulated in the 2022-2023 budget cycle to paying entities, including those of the United Nations.

31 August 2023

2023/23

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

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of and welcomes the progress made by UNOPS in the implementation of the comprehensive response plan in response to the third-party reviews of UNOPS;
2. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the role of the monthly update briefings provided to the Executive Board by the UNOPS Executive Director and the online monitoring tool in contributing to increasing transparency and effective communication within the organization, and welcomes their continuation until the first regular session in 2024;
3. *Decides* that UNOPS continue to prioritize the implementation of the comprehensive response plan;
4. *Continues to note* that the Internal Audit and Investigations Group states in its annual report for 2022 that issues identified could significantly affect the achievements of UNOPS objectives;
5. *Recalls* decision 2023/7, paragraphs 17 and 18, on the urgent need to address the effectiveness of UNOPS governance, risk management and control processes that were found to be only “partially satisfactory with major improvements needed”;

6. *Reiterates* the need for UNOPS to return to and remain within its original mandate of providing infrastructure, procurement and project management services, as stated in General Assembly resolution 65/176 of 20 December 2010;

7. *Requests* that UNOPS provide the Executive Board, before the first regular session 2024, with:

(a) An additional breakdown of the 2014-2022 portfolio along the three pillars of the UNOPS original mandate, including the subcategories of the five functional services;

(b) Information on the impacts of Executive Board decision 2022/24, calling on UNOPS to return to its original mandate, the recently conducted multifaceted portfolio analysis and the midterm review + of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, on the current UNOPS portfolio and decision-making regarding future developments of the portfolio;

8. *Decides* that UNOPS must refrain from new strategic initiatives, subject to approval from the Executive Board, based on the full implementation of the comprehensive response plan, and that internal assurances and external review have been provided on sound financial management and well-functioning governance, risk management and control processes;

With regard to the implementation of paragraph 18 of decision 2022/24, which requested that UNOPS commission an external third-party review at the end of the implementation period of the comprehensive response plan:

9. *Requests* that the review cover all the categories and actions of the comprehensive response plan, with a view to evaluate the quality of implementation and the degree to which the results achieved by the comprehensive response plan respond to the KPMG recommendations;

10. *Requests* that the terms of reference of the review are submitted to the Executive Board for input and validation;

With regard to UNOPS organizational culture:

11. *Acknowledges* the initial efforts taken regarding the improvement of the organizational culture of UNOPS, and requests UNOPS to share with the Executive Board a strategy for the implementation of organizational culture reform fully aligned with United Nations norms and values, to continue conducting regular Pulse surveys among its workforce in this regard and also to measure management performance;

12. *Requests* that UNOPS share with the Board the complete and unredacted results and reports of all the Pulse surveys and of the organizational culture assessment of UNOPS conducted by KPMG;

13. *Requests* that a decision item on organizational culture be added to the agenda of the first regular or annual session;

With regard to UNOPS plan on the implementation of paragraph 11 of decision 2023/1 on limiting the use of individual contractor agreements:

14. *Endorses* the proposed approach for determining which positions are to be established as fixed-term appointment posts and how they will be filled, in accordance with the staff regulations and rules of the United Nations;

15. *Welcomes* the update that identified positions are on track to be filled, in line with the original recommendation of the United Nations Board of Auditors by January 2024;

16. *Decides* that an update on progress towards the January 2024 milestones be provided at the first regular session of the Executive Board in 2024;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of the findings of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit on the review of the use of non-staff personnel and related contractual modalities in

the United Nations system (Joint Inspection Unit project A.468), to guide future decisions regarding UNOPS application of individual contractor agreements across the organization.

31 August 2023

2023/24

Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2022

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2022 ([DP/OPS/2023/9](#));
2. *Welcomes* the data and analysis contained therein;
3. *Recalls* decision 2018/20, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, and decision 2022/20, paragraph 3.

31 August 2023

2023/25

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

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its second regular session 2023, it:

Item 1

Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda and agreed on the workplan for the second regular session 2023 ([DP/2023/L.3](#));

Adopted the report of the annual session 2023 ([DP/2023/24](#));

Agreed with the tentative workplan for the first regular session 2024;

UNDP segment

Item 2

Structured funding dialogue

Adopted decision 2023/20 on the structured funding dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;

Item 3

UNDP country programmes and related matters

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

Africa region: Angola ([DP/DCP/AGO/5](#)); Benin ([DP/DCP/BEN/4](#)); Burundi ([DP/DCP/BDI/5](#)); Chad ([DP/DCP/TCD/4](#)); Equatorial Guinea ([DP/DCP/GNQ/4](#)); Lesotho ([DP/DCP/LSO/4](#)); Malawi ([DP/DCP/MWI/4](#)); Mauritania ([DP/DCP/MRT/4](#)); Senegal ([DP/DCP/SEN/4](#)); Togo ([DP/DCP/TGO/4](#));

Asia-Pacific region: Papua New Guinea ([DP/DCP/PNG/3](#));

Approved the third two-year extension of the country programme for Burkina Faso; the fifth two-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan and the second one-

year extension of the country programme for Myanmar ([DP/2023/28](#));

UNFPA segment

Item 4

UNFPA structured funding dialogue

Adopted decision 2023/21 on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue;

Item 5

UNFPA country programmes and related matters

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

Angola ([DP/FPA/CPD/AGO/9](#)); Benin ([DP/FPA/CPD/BEN/10](#)); Burundi ([DP/FPA/CPD/BDI/9](#)); Chad ([DP/FPA/CPD/TCD/8](#)); Equatorial Guinea ([DP/FPA/CPD/GNQ/8](#)); Lesotho ([DP/FPA/CPD/LSO/8](#)); Libya ([DP/FPA/CPD/LBY/2](#)); Malawi ([DP/FPA/CPD/MWI/9](#)); Mauritania ([DP/FPA/CPD/MRT/9](#)); Senegal ([DP/FPA/CPD/SEN/9](#)); Togo ([DP/FPA/CPD/TGO/8](#));

Took note of the first one-year extension, approved by the UNFPA Executive Director, of the UNFPA country programmes for Sierra Leone ([DP/FPA/2023/9](#));

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Myanmar; the second, two-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan; the third one-year extension of the country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and the third, two-year extension of the country programme for Burkina Faso ([DP/FPA/2023/9](#));

UNOPS segment

Item 6

Adopted decision 2023/22 on the UNOPS budget estimates for the biennium 2024-2025;

Adopted decision 2023/23 on a comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews on UNOPS;

Adopted decision 2023/24 on the annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2022.

31 August 2023