



Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-WOMEN

Working Methods of the Executive Boards: Proposed Workplans for 2021

DRAFT as of 26 May 2020

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Annex 1: Background on previous decisions and papers produced

1. Overview and Background

a. Objective and overview

The objective of this exercise is to present a “concrete proposal for a rearranged annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2021.” This was requested by the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-Women in decisions taken by their Boards (detailed below). The aim is to improve the overall efficiency and oversight of the Boards, which is also in line with requests of GA resolution 71/243 on the QCPR and GA resolution 72/279 on repositioning of the UN Development System.

This paper is organized in the following 3 sections:

- **I: Objective and background:** provides the details of the most recent Board decisions requesting this latest information from the Board Secretariats, and this section also provides background on the history of the Board decisions and related actions taken (including reports produced) on the topic of working methods of the Executive Boards.
- **II: Overview of proposed Annual Workplans for 2021:** Provides an overview of the proposed workplans for 2021 and what has shifted, including a description of harmonization efforts across the agencies, and a comparative analysis of implications on items for decision, overall costs, efficiency & oversight.
- **III: Proposed Annual Workplans, daily schedules, and informals for 2021:** Has the proposed annual workplans for 2021 for each Board, including the daily schedules and corresponding lists of informals.

b. Decision which mandated the production of this paper

During the First Regular Sessions of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-Women in February 2020, the respective Boards adopted decisions on ‘Executive Board Working Methods’ (decision 2020/2 for UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS; decision 2020/1 for UNICEF; decision 2020/1 for UN-Women) which requested the following (paragraphs below are from the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Board decision as an example):

- *Para. 4:* Requests the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UN-Women, to submit to Member States, ahead of the annual session 2020, with a view to conclude discussions on the working methods no later than the second regular session, a concrete proposal for a rearranged annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2021, which includes daily schedules of the three sessions and informal consultations, supported by a detailed comparative analysis of potential implications on items for decisions, overall costs, efficiency and oversight, with a view to reducing the workload of the second regular session by shifting agenda items among formal sessions, as appropriate;
- *Para. 5:* Further recalls decision 2018/22 and stresses the need to continue to harmonize the consideration of common agenda items across the respective Executive Board agendas and requests the secretariat of the

Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UN-Women, to reflect it in the proposal of a rearranged workplan for 2021.

The Secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-Women have thus produced this joint concrete proposals for the consideration of their respective Executive Boards in advance of their respective Annual Sessions in 2020.

2. Overview of Proposed Annual Workplans for 2021

a. Overview of workplans and shifting of agenda items

As requested by the respective Executive Boards of the NY based funds and programmes, these entities have undertaken a thorough consultation process to determine which items may be shifted from the Second Regular Session to either the First Regular or Annual Sessions of the Board. This was done with a view to reduce the workload of the Second Regular Session, at the request of the respective Boards. To this end, the Table 1 below shows the following:

- All the items from the Second Regular Session
- Which ones were shifted
- Where each item has been shifted (or retained)

Table 1: Shifting Agenda Items

AGENDA ITEM	SHIFTED FROM SECOND REGULAR SESSION?	WHERE IS IT?
THEMATIC EVALUATIONS	✓	FIRST, ANNUAL
FIELD VISITS	✓	FIRST
UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETING REPORT	✓	FIRST
SEXUAL HARASSMENT & SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & ABUSE (SEA)	✓	ANNUAL
UNDS REFORM	✓	ANNUAL
STRATEGIC PLANS	X	SECOND
BUDGETS	X	SECOND
STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE	X	SECOND
COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENTS	X	SECOND

UNOPS ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS PROCUREMENT	X	SECOND
UNICEF GENDER ACTION PLAN¹	X	SECOND

As shown above, the agencies are proposed to move nearly 50% (5 out of 11) of all their Second Regular Session Board items to other formal sessions of the Board. And for items that are common/applicable to all the agencies², everything is proposed to be shifted except for the Strategic Plans and the budgets. This should help to ease the workload of the Second Regular Session. It should also be noted that 2021 is an exceptional year as it is the year of the approval of the Strategic Plans and Budgets for the agencies which takes place every 4 years³. Therefore, in other years, the Second Regular Session will have an even more reduced workload with the absence of these items, with a primary focus on the statements of the executive heads, Country Programme Documents, and Structured Funding Dialogues.

b. Harmonization across the workplans

The respective Boards have stressed the need to continue to harmonize the consideration of common agenda items across the respective Executive Board agendas. A “common agenda item” is understood as a statutory/mandated agenda item that appears on the agenda of all the Executive Boards (Strategic Plans, audit reports, etc.), with the relevant documentation prepared individually by each secretariat for its own Board. And ‘harmonization’ in this context is understood as having common agenda items addressed at the same session across the Boards. Bearing in mind these definitions, the Executive Board secretariats have identified a set of common agenda items under the same/similar subject names. In preparing the proposed workplans for 2021, the secretariats have looked at these common agenda items with the aim of achieving full harmonization. It should be noted that 2 non-statutory items have been added—UNDS reform and sexual harassment & SEA—in anticipation of the Boards requesting these items to be placed on the respective Board agendas. Table 2 below shows all the common agenda items across the agencies, and which ones have been harmonized.

This table shows that the common agenda items are fully harmonized, with all 16 out of the 16 agenda items achieving harmonization.

¹ The UNICEF Gender Action Plan is presented every 4 years in conjunction with the Strategic Plan and has thus been retained in the Second Regular Session. Also important to note, that the annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan is presented at the annual session every year.

² In Table 1, the items common to all the agencies are the field visits, SH/SEA, UNDS reform, Strategic Plans, and the budgets.

³ Please note that the budgets for UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF are approved every 4 years, but the budgets for UN-Women and UNOPS are biennial and are approved every 2 years.

Table 2: Status of harmonization

AGENDA ITEM	HARMONIZED?
EXTERNAL AUDIT (UNBOA)	✓
INTERNAL AUDIT	✓
ETHICS	✓
ANNUAL REPORT ON EVALUATION	✓
THEMATIC EVALUATIONS	✓
ANNUAL REPORT OF ED/ADMINISTRATOR	✓
ANNUAL REPORT ON GENDER	✓
STRATEGIC PLAN	✓
BUDGET	✓
STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE	✓
JOINT INSPECTION UNIT	✓
COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENTS	✓
FIELD VISITS	✓
UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD	✓
UNDS REFORM	✓
SEXUAL HARASSMENT & SEA	✓

For a more detailed view of the placement of these agenda items across the agencies, Table 3 below shows the following:

- Each column has the common agenda items which have been identified across the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN Women
- Each row lists the 5 agencies and where each agenda item appears on their respective workplans: **F** = First Regular Session; **A** = Annual Session; **S** = Second Regular Session; **N/A** = Not applicable

Table 3: Detailed view of the status of harmonization

	External Audit (UNB OA, etc.)	Internal Audit	Ethics	Annual Report on Evaluation	Thematic evaluations	Annual Report of ED/Admin	Annual Report on Gender	Strategic Plan	Budget	Structured Funding Dialogue ⁴	JIU	CPDs ⁵	Field Visits ⁶	UNAIDS PCB	UNSD reform	SH/SEA ⁶
UNDP	F	A	A	A	F,A	A	A	S	S	S	A	F,A,S	F	F	A	A
UNFPA	F	A	A	A	F,A	A	N/A	S	S	S	A	F,A,S	F	F	A	A
UNOPS	F	A	A	N/A	N/A	A	N/A	S	S	S	A	N/A	F	N/A	A	A
UNICEF	F	A	A	A	F,A	A	A	S	S	S	A	F,A,S	F ⁷	F	A	A
UN WOMEN	F	A	N/A	A	F,A	A	A	S	S	S	A	N/A	F	F	A	A

F = First Regular Session A = Annual Session S = Second Regular Session N/A = Not applicable

Due consideration was given to ensuring coherence across the agencies and having a good balance between the formal Board sessions. The table above shows that with the proposed workplans for 2021, the agencies are fully harmonized across all the common agenda items. The agencies of course remain guided by their respective Boards on the final placement of these agenda items.

c. Shifting items: Comparative analysis of implications on items for decision, overall costs, efficiency & oversight

The Executive Board decisions from February 2020 referenced above by the Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-Women also requested a comparative of the implications on items for decision, overall costs, efficiency and oversight caused by the shifting of items from the Second Regular Session to other formal Board sessions. To this end, the agencies have prepared the table below which shows the implications

⁴ The Structured Funding Dialogue is usually based on reports from the agencies detailing funding situation from previous year, financial and funding forecasts and other financial information and is a common agenda item across UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN-Women. Other financial documents not common to all agencies are also presented by the agencies during other sessions of the Board.

⁵ CPDs are not applicable to UN Women (or to UNOPS) but appear on the workplans of all the other Boards

⁶ This includes both each Board's field visit and the joint field visits. The joint field visit is a joint item and not for decision, so it could be also moved to the Joint Meeting of the Boards, which would also avoid redundant presentations across the Boards as the same report is presented in all 4 Boards (including WFP). It could thus create efficiencies and reinforce the joint nature of this item, which would also bring a field perspective to the JMB discussions without taking too much time in the agenda.

⁷ For UNICEF, the placement of the agenda item is indicative as it depends on the scheduling of the UNICEF Executive Board's field visit.

that the shifting of items has on decisions and also on the efficiency and oversight aspects of the Board. Implications on overall costs follow separately.

Table 4 therefore includes the following:

- Each of the 5 agenda items which have been shifted from the Second Regular Session to other formal sessions of the Boards: thematic evaluations, field visits, UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, sexual harassment & SEA, and UNDS reform
- To which session each of the items shifted, either First Regular or Annual Session
- Columns showing the implications of such shifting of items in the following areas: decisions, and efficiency and oversight.

Table 4: Implications of shifting items from the Second Regular Session to the First Regular or Annual Sessions

ITEM	WHERE DID IT SHIFT?	DECISIONS	EFFICIENCY & OVERSIGHT
THEMATIC EVALUATIONS	FIRST, ANNUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impact as the respective independent evaluation offices and programme teams do not foresee any evaluation decisions as being particularly time sensitive for any needed guidance in September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Efficiency</u>: Reviewing a few evaluations at once may allow for drawing linkages between cross-sectoral issues, and also allow for more focused engagement from capital-based experts focusing on evaluations • <u>Oversight</u>: While there would be 1 fewer formal Board session on thematic evaluations, the overall number of evaluations would not be reduced, UN system-wide evaluations may increase, and, in addition, further informal consultations can be added as needed throughout the year.
FIELD VISITS	FIRST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impact as this agenda item is not for decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Efficiency</u>: The timing of both the Board’s field visit and joint field visit are often planned for the first half of the year, with one of the considerations being the need to submit the field visit reports to the Board in July in time for the Sept. session. This often creates a very crowded Jan-June Board season. So

			<p>this allows for a more flexible and efficient use of the Board’s time with having the possibility of field visits later in the year as well. If the field visits occur earlier in the year, however, there would be a greater time delay between the visit and the review of the report if it is done in Jan/Feb of the following year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Oversight</u>: No implications on oversight with the shift in the session this item is discussed.
UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD (PCB) MEETING REPORT	FIRST⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impact as this agenda item is not for decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Efficiency</u>: Harmonizing the timing among NY-based agencies would allow Member States to view broader synergies and complementarities with regards to the work of the co-sponsors and that of the Joint Programme, including better alignment with the annual PCB reporting cycle. • <u>Oversight</u>: There would be a closer and more timely oversight on such matters, with the most recent PCB meetings being discussed sooner by the Board.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT & SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & ABUSE (SEA)⁹	ANNUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This agenda item is not always for decision and has been decided by the Boards on a case-by-case basis. In 2021, there are no foreseen issues related to whether this agenda item would require a decision in one session or another, as that is yet to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Efficiency</u>: In terms of addressing issues coherently, having this agenda item in the Annual Session will allow Board members to review priority SH/SEA issues in the context of the audit and ethics reports also discussed at this session. This item would, however, be discussed during the more crowded Annual Session for the Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, so it may not have as much time for discussed allocated to it.

⁸ It should be noted that this item was already in the First Regular Session of the UNICEF Board. And the UN Women Board will be placing this item on their agenda for the first time in 2021.

⁹ As noted in section 2.b above, sexual harassment & SEA is a non-statutory/non-mandated item for the respective Boards.

		determined by the Boards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight: Related to the above, having this item in the Annual Session with the audit and ethics items would allow the Board to have a more coherent oversight of all related issues. It would also allow for any questions about the annual certification on this topic.
UNDS REFORM¹⁰	ANNUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This agenda item is not always for decision and has been decided by the Boards on a case-by-case basis. In 2021, there are no foreseen issues related to this agenda item that would require a decision in one session or another, as that is yet to be determined by the Boards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiency: Similar to the agenda item on SH/SEA, discussing UNDS reform issues at the same time as other agenda items such as the various annual reports, may be more efficient in terms of drawing relevant linkages to interrelated issues, as UNDS reform cuts across most topics, including QCPR reporting. Moreover, having all agencies address this topic at the annual session allows for Member States to focus at the same time on issues impacting all agencies. • Oversight: Addressing UNDS reform issues during the Annual Session will allow for more holistic oversight on such issues as they would be discussed at the same session as the annual results reporting of the agencies. Relevant outcomes from ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment could also enrich discussions in the Session.

Implications on Overall Costs:

In meeting the respective Boards’ requests to analyze the implications on overall costs by shifting items from the Second Regular Session, three categories were assessed:

1. **Formal sessions** (length/number of days)
2. **Informals** associated with each session (number of informals)

¹⁰ As noted in section 2.b above, it should be noted that UNDS reform is a non-statutory/non-mandated item for the respective Boards.

3. **Official documentation** (number of documents)

Changes in these categories were identified by comparing the 2021 workplans and the workplans implemented in 2019¹¹ —the most recent year of completed and standard work across all executive boards. The year 2020 was not taken into account in the comparisons due to the atypical and exceptional circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, which have affected the organization of the work of all boards.

This analysis determined that the only overall cost implication of the shifting of items from the Second Regular Session to the First and Annual Sessions was in the number of formal session days utilized. It was also determined that the shifting of items from the Second Regular Session was cost neutral and thus did not have any cost implications on the number of informals or documents produced.

It is important to note that this analysis produced other interesting findings on cost reductions, unrelated to the rearranged workplans proposed for 2021. Some of the differences identified between the two years compared are linked to substantive specificities of each workplan, such as documentation that either was mandated or not for that specific year, or informals that took place in 2019 which were deemed to not be relevant in 2021.. The information below further details these cost implications.

1. **Shifts in the length of the formal sessions: number of days**

Compared to 2019, the proposed annual workplans for 2021 could entail an aggregated reduction of 1 full day of formal sessions across all executive boards. This would amount to a total of \$478 in savings in terms of direct costs to the agencies, as the agencies only pay for webcasting services for the formal sessions, which amounts to \$239 for each 3 hour segment. The conferencing and interpretation services for formal sessions are absorbed by the UN Secretariat. So in terms of indirect costs that would be saved (borne by the UN Secretariat), this would - \$11,900¹², as that is the cost of a full day meeting.

It should be noted that the agencies aimed to be as efficient in possible in drafting the proposed 2021 workplans, and as such, were able to design the First and Annual Sessions in order to make better use of the time allocated. So as seen below, for example, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS reduced the Second Regular Session by half a day, but due to greater efforts at scheduling efficiencies, did not need to increase the number of days in the First and Annual Sessions. Similarly, the Executive Board of UNICEF reduced the Second Regular Session by 1 day, but only needed to add half a day to the First Regular Session.

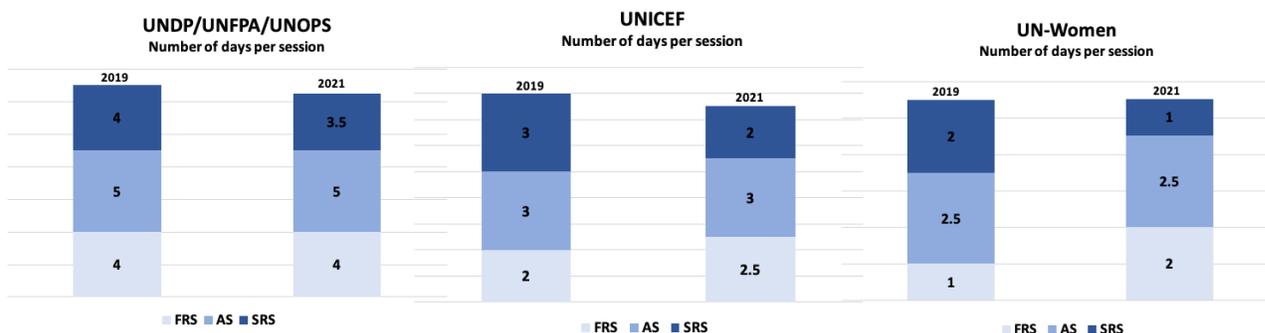
The following is the breakdown of the reductions in number of days for each Board:

- For the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS: a reduction of half a day in the second regular session.

¹¹ It should be noted that the number of days for the First Regular Session for the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS used was 4 (instead of 5 in 2019) as that is the current trend going forward.

¹²[A/74/250](#), *Organization of the seventy-fourth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items*, First Report of the General Committee.

- For the Executive Board of UNICEF: An addition of half a day in the first regular session and reduction of a 1 day in the second regular session. It should be noted that the second regular session in 2019 included a half-day special focus session.
- For UN-Women: an addition of 1 day in the first regular session, and a reduction of 1 day in the second regular session.



2. Shifts in informals associated with each session: number of informals

There were no changes in the number of informals due to the shifting of items from the Second Regular Session to the First and Annual Sessions in the revised workplans for 2021. But it is interesting to note that this analysis showed that overall, compared to 2019, there is a potential reduction in 2021 of 13 informal consultations across all executive boards. This has amounted to a corresponding cost reduction of about \$6,045.00¹³. This is just an estimate, however, as the list of informals is always subject to change at the request of the respective Board Bureaux and Boards.

The following is the breakdown of the changes in number of informal meetings for each Board for potential informals in 2021 versus in 2019:

- Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS: First regular session: same; Annual Session: 3 fewer; and Second regular session: 2 fewer. Total change: reduction in 5 informals.
- Executive Board of UNICEF: First regular session: 2 fewer; Annual session: 2 fewer; and Second regular session: 3 fewer. Total change: Reduction in 7 informals.
- Executive Board of UN-Women: First regular session: 4 more; Annual session: 5 fewer; Second regular session: same. Total change: Reduction in 1 informal.

3. Shifts in official documentation: number of documents

Similar to the number of informals, there were no shifts in the number of documents due to the shifting of items from the Second Regular Session to the First and Annual Sessions in the revised workplans for 2021. In terms of overall reductions in documents due to other factors, this has been fairly negligible with only 1 official document reduced each for the Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UN Women. The tables

¹³ Estimates have been based on the cost of conference room services with one technician for meetings of up to three hours (\$465.00).

below indicate the comparison between 2019 and the estimates of official documents that can be anticipated for 2021 for each Board:

UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS	2019	2021
First regular session	14	18
Annual session	31	25
Second regular session	18	19
Total	63	62

UNICEF	2019	2021
First regular session	8	8
Annual session	12	11
Second regular session	9	10
Total	29	29

UN-Women	2019	2021
First regular session	6	5
Annual session	5	8
Second regular session	6	3
Total	17	16

Country-programme documents (CPDs) have not been included in the comparison as their cycles and corresponding number for 2021 is not yet accurately known or predictable. Further, CPDs are not applicable in the case of UN-Women. The comparison does not include all types of non-official documents either, such as background or conferences room papers, as the needs for such papers are constantly evolving and often related to the request of each Board.

Justifications for not shifting certain agenda items from the Second Regular Session

Table 4 and the analysis of the overall costs above thus demonstrate the implications of the items that are proposed to be shifted from the Second Regular Session to the First Regular and Annual Sessions of the Board, but how about the items that have not shifted? As mentioned in section 2.a above, these items are the following: Strategic Plans; budgets; structured funding dialogue; Country Programme Documents; UNOPS Annual Statistical Report on the Procurement Activities of the UN System Organizations; and the UNICEF Gender Action Plan. Thorough consultations were undertaken with the technical leads on all of these agenda items from all the agencies, and after careful analysis, the technical experts determined that, for a number of reasons specific to each item, it would be most appropriate to continue to review and discuss these agenda items at the Second Regular Sessions of the respective Boards.

Table 5 therefore shows the following:

- Each of the 6 agenda items that have not been shifted from the Second Regular Sessions of the Boards: Strategic Plans; budgets; structured funding dialogue; Country Programme Documents; UNOPS Annual Statistical Report on the Procurement Activities of the UN System Organizations; and the UNICEF Gender Action Plan
- Justification for not shifting them in the proposed workplans for 2021

Table 5: Justifications for not shifting certain agenda items from the Second Regular Session

ITEM	JUSTIFICATION FOR NOT SHIFTING FROM THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION
STRATEGIC PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategic Plans of the 5 agencies are all reviewed and approved by the respective Executive Boards at the Second Regular Session every 4 years. Therefore, since these Plans do not overburden the Boards every year, and in order to not affect the current annual and mid-term reporting periods, it was determined to maintain the Strategic Plans in the Second Regular Session of the Boards.
BUDGETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to the above, the budgets of the agencies are not reviewed and approved every year. They are reviewed and approved in the Second Regular Sessions every 4 years for UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF, and every 2 years for UNOPS and UN Women. Therefore, since they do not overburden the Boards every year and in order to not affect the current annual and mid-term reporting periods, it was determined that it would be best to maintain the budgets in the Second Regular Session of the Boards. Moreover, it is important to present the budgets at the same time as the Strategic Plans. In addition, the Second Regular session is optimal in order to main the current SP and IB cycles.
STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The structured funding dialogue (SFD) reports reference issues such as the audited financial statements for the year immediately preceding it, in addition to the status of funding commitments and other issues, which may be too outdated for a presentation in the First Regular or Annual sessions of the <i>following year</i>. Keeping the structured funding dialogue discussion in the Second Regular Session would allow for more timely inputs from the internal audit reports presented at the Annual Session in the same year. If this item was moved to the First or Annual Sessions of the Board, there would be too much of time lag between these reports (i.e. the audit reports would be presented in the Annual Session, with the SFD items being discussed only the following First or Annual Session). In addition, the financial books do not close until April, meaning that full and complete documentation cannot be prepared sufficiently in time for the Annual Session. Having this item in the First or Annual Session the following year would mean there is a long time lag between when the books close and when the reports are presented. This may be a challenge for the Board, as the SFD is meant to help Board members make timely funding decisions during the year. Keeping the SFD in the Second Regular session would also keep them more aligned with the GA Fifth Committee discussions which could help in terms of coherence and any areas of joint relevance between those discussions. Some partners wish to make additional funding commitments before the end of the year and announce them at the Board, so not having the SFD at the Second Regular Session may have implications on the timing of such end-of-year decisions. .

COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As we try to seek better alignment with UNSDCF, there is also an imperative to bear in mind different planning cycles of programme countries, including parliamentary approvals of the national plans and budgets, possible CPD extensions CPDs due to the impact of COVID-19, as well as other ad hoc extensions due to unforeseen crises, emergencies etc. Therefore, it is highly recommended to have the flexibility to present CPDs at each of the 3 sessions of the Board. Such flexibility would, in the event of delays in UNSDCF finalization, allow for more opportunities for the CPDs to be reviewed by the Boards • Shifting of CPDs from the Second Regular Session would also mean more CPDs before the First Regular and Annual sessions, much longer and/or multiple informals (in the case of the Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS)¹⁴, and longer formal sessions. We should also anticipate a potentially long implementation lag between an UNSDCF finalized in July, for example, and a CPD which can only be approved the following January. • Furthermore, regardless of when the CPDs are reviewed, it is also important to look ahead to the presentation of the CPDs during the formal and informal sessions. During the formal session, instead of individual presentations, consideration could be given to a more strategic presentation such as a short regional overview of key trends, opportunities, and challenges, overview of the agency's support etc. • In order to address the interest among programme countries to share, for official records, information about their CPDs, there could be concise presentations focusing on national priorities, agency support, expectations, comparative advantages, etc. • If this format were to achieve consensus, informal consultations then could have more in-depth discussions on individual CPDs, complemented by Member State comments during the online reviews.
UNOPS ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS PROCUREMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Statistical Report on United Nations Procurement includes procurement information from approximately 40 UN entities. Each agency prepares their annual procurement statistics between January and March each year, and submits them to UNOPS for collation and analysis. This process by UNOPS takes approximately two to three months, and therefore the earliest the report can be published by end June, subject to all participating agencies submitting accurate data on time. However, it is not possible to meet the document submission timelines of the Annual Session. Therefore the earliest the report can be presented to the Executive Board is the second session.
UNICEF GENDER ACTION PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNICEF Gender Action Plan is reviewed every 4 years in conjunction with the UNICEF Strategic Plan. Therefore, similar to what was indicated above about the Strategic Plans, since this Gender Action Plan does not overburden the Boards every year, and in order to not affect the current annual reporting period for this plan, it was determined that it would be best to maintain the UNICEF Gender Action Plan in the Second Regular Session of the UNICEF Board.

¹⁴ It should be noted that the issue of CPD informals in this section only applies to UNDP and UNFPA as UNICEF does not have CPD informals.

3. Proposed Annual Workplans, daily schedules, and informals for 2021

a. Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS

Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS: Proposed Annual Workplan for 2021

FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2021 1-4 Feb. 2021	ANNUAL SESSION 2021 7-11 June 2021	SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2021 30 Aug.-2 Sept. 2021
JOINT SEGMENT	JOINT SEGMENT	JOINT SEGMENT
Organizational matters Election of Executive Board Bureau for 2021 <i>(held in December 2020)</i> Adoption of the annual workplan 2021 of the Executive Board	Organizational matters	Organizational matters Proposed draft annual workplan 2022 of the Executive Board
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS reports on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2019 (D)	Internal audit and investigation Reports on internal audit and investigation for UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities in 2020, and management responses (D)	
Follow up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meetings Joint UNDP and UNFPA report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS	Ethics Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities in 2020, and management responses (D)	
Field visits Reports on the joint UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, IN-Women and WFP Executive Boards field visit and the Executive Board	Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system (not legislated)	

of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS field visit in 2020		
	Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (<i>not legislated</i>)	
Other matters Address by the Chairperson of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/UN-Women Staff Council	Other matters	Other matters

UNDP SEGMENT	UNDP SEGMENT	UNDP SEGMENT
Interactive Dialogue with the Administrator	Interactive Dialogue with the Administrator	Interactive Dialogue with the Administrator
Country programmes and related matters Country programme documents and extensions of ongoing country programmes	Country programmes and related matters Country programme documents and extensions of ongoing country programmes	Country programmes and related matters Country programme documents and extensions of ongoing country programmes
Evaluation Thematic evaluations and management responses (<i>D</i>)	Evaluation Annual report on evaluation, and management commentaries (<i>D</i>) Thematic evaluations and management responses (<i>D</i>)	
	UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 Draft UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025	UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025
	Annual Report of the Administrator Cumulative review of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and annual report of the Administrator for 2020 (<i>D</i>) UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020 Statistical annex	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters UNDP integrated resources plan and integrated budget estimates, 2022-2025 (<i>D</i>) Report of the ACABQ on the UNDP integrated resources plan and integrated budget estimates, 2022-2025

Human Development Report Update on the Human Development Report consultations (GA resolution 57/264)	Gender equality at UNDP Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy, 2018-2021	UNDP structured funding dialogue <i>One merged report</i> including the annual review of the UNDP financial situation, 2020, and the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (D) UNCDF annual review of the financial situation and structured dialogue on financing
	UNCDF Cumulative review of the strategic framework, 2018-2021, and annual report on results for 2020 (D)	
	UNV United Nations Volunteers: annual report of the Administrator (D)	

UNFPA SEGMENT	UNFPA SEGMENT	UNFPA SEGMENT
Statement by the UNFPA Executive Director	Statement by the UNFPA Executive Director	Statement by the UNFPA Executive Director
Country programmes and related matters Country programme documents and extensions of ongoing country programmes	Country programmes and related matters Country programme documents and extensions of ongoing country programmes	Country programmes and related matters Country programme documents and extensions of ongoing country programmes
Evaluation Thematic evaluations and management responses (TBD)	Evaluation Annual report on evaluation, and management commentaries (D) Thematic evaluations and management responses (TBD)	
	UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 Draft UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025	UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (D)

	<p>Annual report of the Executive Director</p> <p>Progress report on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (D)</p> <p>UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020</p> <p>Statistical and financial review, 2020</p>	<p>Financial, budgetary and administrative matters</p> <p>UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025 (D)</p> <p>Report of ACABQ on the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025</p>
		<p>UNFPA structured funding dialogue</p> <p>Report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue 2020-2021 (D)</p>

UNOPS SEGMENT	UNOPS SEGMENT	UNOPS SEGMENT
<p>Statement by the UNOPS Executive Director</p>	<p>Statement by the UNOPS Executive Director</p> <p>Annual report of the Executive Director</p>	<p>Statement by the UNOPS Executive Director</p> <p>UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025</p> <p>UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (D)</p>
		<p>Financial, budgetary and administrative matters</p> <p>UNOPS budget estimates for the biennium 2022-2023 (D)</p> <p>Report of the ACABQ on the UNOPS budget estimates for the biennium 2022-2023</p> <p>Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2020 (D)</p>

Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS: Proposed Daily Schedules for 2021:

FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2021: 1 – 4 February, New York

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 1 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		<p>ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</p> <p>JOINT SEGMENT</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS reports on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2019 (D) <p>FOLLOW-UP TO UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETING (moved from the September session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint UNDP and UNFPA report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS <p>Address by the Chairperson of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS/UN-Women Staff Council (moved from the September session)</p>
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>UNDP SEGMENT</p> <p>UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p>
Tuesday, 2 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		<p>UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)</p> <p>INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR</p>
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR (cont'd)</p> <p>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT (moved from the June session)¹⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the Human Development Report consultations (GA resolution 57/264) <p>EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic evaluations and management responses (TBD)
Wednesday, 3 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		<p>UNFPA SEGMENT</p> <p>STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p>
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic evaluations and management responses (TBD) <p>UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p>

¹⁵ The Human Development Report item is being proposed to be moved from the Annual to the First Regular Session in an effort to better balance the Board sessions. It must be noted, however, that the production of the report may not be advanced enough to have a very substantive discussion in February as opposed to later in the year when the process is further underway.

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Thursday, 4 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		UNOPS SEGMENT STATEMENT BY THE UNOPS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		FIELD VISITS (moved from the September session) OTHER MATTERS ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

ANNUAL SESSION 2021: 7 - 11 June, New York

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 7 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS JOINT SEGMENT UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 72/279 ON THE REPOSITIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM (not legislated) INTERNAL AUDIT AND INVESTIGATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on internal audit and investigation for UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities in 2020, and management responses (<i>D</i>) ETHICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities in 2020, and management responses (<i>D</i>) PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT (not legislated)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative review of the strategic framework, 2018-2021, and annual report on results for 2020 (<i>D</i>) UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Volunteers: annual report of the Administrator (<i>D</i>)
Tuesday, 8 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd) INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative review of the strategic plan, 2018-2021, and annual report of the Administrator for 2020 (<i>D</i>) • UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020 • Statistical annex

	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR (cont'd)</p> <p>UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft UNDP strategic plan, 2022-2025
Wednesday, 9 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		<p>GENDER EQUALITY AT UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2018-2021
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report on evaluation, and management commentaries (<i>D</i>) Thematic evaluations and management responses (TBD) <p>UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p>
Thursday, 10 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		<p style="text-align: center;">UNFPA SEGMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <p>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress report on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (<i>D</i>) UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2020 Statistical and financial review, 2020 <p>UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report on evaluation, and management commentaries (<i>D</i>) Thematic evaluations and management responses (TBD) <p>UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p>
Friday, 11 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		<p style="text-align: center;">UNOPS SEGMENT</p> <p>STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ANNUAL REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report of the Executive Director (<i>D</i>)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>OTHER MATTERS</p> <p>ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</p>

SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2021: 30 August – 2 September, New York

<i>Day/date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 30 August	10 a.m.-1 p.m.		<p>ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOINT SEGMENT</p> <p>UNDP STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One merged report including the annual review of the UNDP financial situation, 2020, and the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (D) • UNCDF annual review of the financial situation and structured dialogue on financing <p>UNFPA STRUCTURED FUNDING DIALOGUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue 2020-2021 (D)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p style="text-align: center;">UNDP SEGMENT</p> <p>UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p>
Tuesday, 31 August	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		<p style="text-align: center;">UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR</p> <p>UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP strategic plan, 2022-2025 (D)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2025 (cont'd)</p> <p>FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP integrated resources plan and integrated budget estimates, 2022-2025 (D) • Report of the ACABQ on the UNDP integrated resources plan and integrated budget estimates, 2022-2025
Wednesday, 1 September	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		<p style="text-align: center;">UNFPA SEGMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <p>UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025 (D)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2025 (cont'd)</p> <p>FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025 (D) • ACABQ report on the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025 <p>UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p>

<p>Thursday, 2 September</p>	<p>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UNOPS SEGMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <p>UNOPS STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNOPS strategic plan, 2022-2025 (<i>D</i>) <p>FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNOPS budget estimates for the biennium 2022-2023 (<i>D</i>) • Report of the ACABQ on the UNOPS budget estimates for the biennium 2022-2023 • Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2020 (<i>D</i>) <p>OTHER MATTERS</p> <p>ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</p>
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Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS: Proposed List of Informals for 2021

FIRST REGULAR SESSION	ANNUAL SESSION	SECOND REGULAR SESSION
<p>Elections of the 2021 Bureau of the Executive Board</p> <p>Pre-session informal consultation</p> <p>Joint Orientation for the Executive Board</p> <p>UNDP Orientation for the Executive Board</p> <p>UNFPA Orientation for the Executive Board</p>	<p>Pre-session informal consultation</p> <p>Informal consultation on the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (2 briefings/workshops before the session)</p> <p>Informal consultation on the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (2 briefings/workshops before the session)</p> <p>Briefing on the Interactive Dialogue with the Administrator and the Annual Report 2020 (topic of the Interactive Dialogue with the Administrator)</p>	<p>Pre-session informal consultation</p> <p>Informal consultation on the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (topic of Interactive Dialogue with the Administrator)</p> <p>Informal consultation on the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025</p> <p>Informal consultation on the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (2 briefings/workshops before the session)</p> <p>Informal consultation on UNDP Integrated Resources Plan and Integrated Budget estimates, 2022-2025 and Report of the ACABQ on the UNDP Integrated Resources Plan and Integrated Budget estimates, 2022-2025</p>

UNOPS Orientation for the Executive Board	Informal consultation on the UNFPA Annual Report of the Executive Director	Informal consultation on UNFPA Integrated Budget, 2022-2025 and Report of ACABQ on UNFPA Integrated Budget, 2022-2025
Informal consultation on the report of UNDP on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2019	Informal consultation on the Annual Report of the Executive Director of UNOPS	Informal consultation on UNOPS biennial budget estimates for 2022-2023 and Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2020
Informal consultation on the report of UNFPA on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2019	Informal consultation on the report on internal audit and investigations for UNDP on activities in 2020 and management response	
Informal consultation on the report of UNOPS on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2019	Informal consultation on the UNFPA reports of the Office of Audit and Investigations on activities in 2020 and management response	Informal consultation on UNDP country programme documents
Briefing on the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025	Informal consultation on the UNOPS report of the Office of Audit and Investigations on activities in 2020 and management response	Informal consultation on UNFPA country programme documents
Briefing on the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025	Informal consultation on UNDP country programme documents	Informal consultation on the UNDP Structured Funding Dialogue
Informal consultation on UNDP country programme documents	Informal consultation on UNFPA country programme documents	Informal consultation on UNCDF annual review of the financial situation and structured dialogue on financing
Informal consultation on UNFPA country programme documents	Informal consultation on UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) Annual report on evaluation and management commentaries	Informal consultation on the UNFPA Structured Funding Dialogue
UNDP Informal consultation on evaluation:	UNFPA informal consultation Annual report of the UNFPA Evaluation office 2020 and management commentaries	
UNFPA informal consultation on evaluation	Informal consultation on UNCDF: -Annual Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2020 -Annual review of the UNCDF financial situation, 2020	

<p>UNDP briefing on the interactive dialogue with the Administrator</p> <p>Briefing on Human Development Report</p> <p>Informal consultation on the UNFPA Structured Funding Dialogue</p>	<p>Informal consultation on United Nations Volunteers: Annual Report on the Administrator</p> <p>UNDP Informal consultation on the Annual Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy, 2018-2021</p> <p>Briefing on the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation</p> <p>UNDP Briefing on implementation of GA resolution 72/279 on repositioning of the UN development system</p> <p>UNFPA Briefing on implementation of GA resolution 72/279 on repositioning of the UN development system</p> <p>UNOPS Briefing on implementation of GA resolution 72/279 on repositioning of the UN development system</p> <p>UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS Informal consultation on Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH)</p> <p>UNFPA informal consultation on Reports of the Ethics Office.</p> <p>Informal consultation on the UNFPA Structured Funding Dialogue</p>	
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b. Executive Board of UNICEF

Executive Board of UNICEF: Proposal Annual Workplan for 2021:

FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2021 9-11 Feb. 2021	ANNUAL SESSION 2021 1-4 June 2021	SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2021 7-8 Sept. 2021
Organizational and procedural matters	Organizational and procedural matters	Organizational and procedural matters
Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Executive Board (D)		Proposed programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2022 (D)
Programme and policy matters	Programme and policy matters	Programme and policy matters
<p>Updated road map to and outline of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (I)</p> <p>UNICEF programme cooperation: a) Country programme documents (D) b) Extensions of ongoing country programmes (D)</p> <p>Oral update on UNICEF humanitarian action (I)</p> <p>Oral report on UNICEF follow-up to recommendations and decisions of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Programme Coordinating Board meetings (I)</p>	<p>Annual report for 2020 of the Executive Director of UNICEF (D) o UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (I)</p> <p>UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025, draft for review (I)</p> <p>Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021 (I)</p> <p>Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action (D)</p> <p>UNICEF programme cooperation: a) Country programme documents (D) b) Extensions of ongoing country programmes (D)</p>	<p>UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (D) o Final results framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025</p> <p>UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025 (I)</p> <p>Oral update on UNICEF humanitarian action <i>[can be moved to FRS]</i></p> <p>UNICEF programme cooperation: a) Country programme documents (D) b) Extensions of ongoing country programmes (D)</p>

Evaluation, audit and oversight matters	Evaluation, audit and oversight matters	Evaluation, audit and oversight matters
<p>Evaluation report/s and management response/s (D) (Includes one report presented at the second regular session.)</p>	<p>Annual report for 2020 on the evaluation function in UNICEF (D), and management response</p> <p>Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2020 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response (D)</p> <p>UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2020 annual report (I)</p> <p>Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2020 and management response (D)</p> <p>Update on the implementation of the recommendations made in the independent panel review of the UNICEF response to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; the Morgan Lewis report on sexual harassment investigations conducted by the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations; and the report of the Independent Task Force on Workplace Gender-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Harassment and Abuse of Authority (I) <i>[Non-statutory item]</i></p>	
<p>Resource, financial and budgetary matters</p>	<p>Resource, financial and budgetary matters</p>	<p>Resource, financial and budgetary matters</p>
<p>Private Fundraising and Partnerships: 2021 workplan and proposed budget (D)</p> <p>UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and report of the Board of Auditors, and management response (D)</p>	<p>Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 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 (D) <i>[Non-statutory item]</i></p> <p>Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (D)</p>	
<p>Other matters</p>	<p>Other matters</p>	

Report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP (I)	Provisional list of agenda items for the second regular session of 2021 (I)	
Report of the field visit of the Executive Board of UNICEF (I)		
Provisional list of agenda items for the annual session of 2021 (I)		

Executive Board of UNICEF: Proposed Daily Schedules for 2021:

FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2021: 9 - 11 February, New York

Day/Date	Time	Item	Subject
Tuesday, 9 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF <p>ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work Floor open to plenary for General/National Statements
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Fundraising and Partnerships: 2021 workplan and proposed budget (D) UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and report of the Board of Auditors, and management response (D)
Wednesday, 10 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		<p>PROGRAMME AND POLICY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated road map to and outline of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (I) UNICEF programme cooperation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Country programme documents (D) Extensions of ongoing country programmes (D) Oral update on UNICEF humanitarian action (I)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>EVALUATION, AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation report/s and management response/s (D) [one evaluation moved from SRS] <p>PROGRAMME AND POLICY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral report on UNICEF follow-up to recommendations and decisions of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Programme Coordinating Board meetings (I)

Day/Date	Time	Item	Subject
Thursday, 11 February	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		<p>OTHER MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP (I)¹⁶ <i>[moved from SRS]</i> Report of the field visit of the Executive Board of UNICEF (I)¹⁷ <i>[moved from SRS]</i> Adoption of draft decisions Provisional list of agenda items for the annual session of 2021 (I) Closing remarks by the Executive Director and the President

ANNUAL SESSION 2021: 1 - 4 June, New York

Day/Date	Time	Item	Subject
Tuesday, 1 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF <p>ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work <p>PROGRAMME AND POLICY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report for 2020 of the Executive Director of UNICEF (D) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (I) UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025, draft for review (I)
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>PROGRAMME AND POLICY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021 (I) Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action (D)
Wednesday, 2 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		<p>PROGRAMME AND POLICY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF programme cooperation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Country programme documents (D) Extensions of ongoing country programmes (D) <p>RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 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 (D) <i>[Non-statutory item]</i>
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>EVALUATION, AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report for 2020 on the evaluation function in UNICEF (D), and management response

¹⁶ This item is joint in nature and not for decision, and it could be also moved to the Joint Meeting of the Boards

¹⁷ The slotting of this agenda item is indicative as it depends on the scheduling of the UNICEF Executive Board's field visit

Thursday, 3 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		<p>EVALUATION, AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2020 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response (D) UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2020 annual report (I) Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2020 and management response (D) Update on the implementation of the recommendations made in the independent panel review of the UNICEF response to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; the Morgan Lewis report on sexual harassment investigations conducted by the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations; and the report of the Independent Task Force on Workplace Gender-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Harassment and Abuse of Authority (I) [Non-statutory item]
	3 – 5:30 p.m.		<p>RESOURCES, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2020 (D) [moved from SRS] <p>OTHER MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of draft decisions Provisional list of agenda items for the second regular session of 2021 (I) Address by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association UNICEF Staff Team Awards and closing statements by the Executive Director of UNICEF and the President of the Executive Board

SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2021: (7 – 8 September, New York)

<i>Day/date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Tuesday, 7 September	10 a.m.-1 p.m.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF <p>ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work Floor open to plenary for General/National Statements <p>PROGRAMME AND POLICY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (D) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final results framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025 (I) Oral update on UNICEF humanitarian action [can be moved to FRS]
	3 – 5:00 p.m.		<p>RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 (D) UNICEF Strategic Plan: updated financial estimates, 2021-2024 (D)

Wednesday, 8 September	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p>PROGRAMME AND POLICY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF programme cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Country programme documents (D) b) Extensions of ongoing country programmes (D) <p>RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025 (D) Annex to the UNICEF integrated budget, 2022-2025 (D) UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (I)
	3 – 5:00 p.m.	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2022 (D) Adoption of draft decisions Closing statements of the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

Executive Board of UNICEF: Proposed List of Informals for 2021

FIRST REGULAR SESSION	ANNUAL SESSION	SECOND REGULAR SESSION
<i>Pre-session</i> Updated road map to and outline of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025	Annual report for 2020 of the Executive Director of UNICEF	UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022-2025
Evaluation report/s and management response/s	UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025, draft for review	Structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018 2021
Private Fundraising and Partnerships: 2021 workplan and proposed budget	Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action	UNICEF Strategic Plan: updated financial estimates, 2021-2024 UNICEF integrated budget, 2022-2025
UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and report of the Board of Auditors	Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018 2021 Annual report for 2020 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and management response Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2020 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2020 annual report	UNICEF integrated budget, 2022-2025: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

	<p>Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2020 and management response</p> <p>Update on the implementation of the recommendations made in the independent panel review of the UNICEF response to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; the Morgan Lewis report on sexual harassment investigations conducted by the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations; and the report of the Independent Task Force on Workplace Gender-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Harassment and Abuse of Authority</p> <p>Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 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</p> <p>Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2020</p>	
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c. Executive Board of UN-Women

Executive Board of UN-Women: Proposed Annual Workplan for 2021:

FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2021 15-16 Feb. 2021	ANNUAL SESSION 2021 21-23 June 2021	SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2021 14 September
Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Executive Board	Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279	
Audit matters Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 Report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 Implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports for the year ended 31 December 2019 on the United Nations funds and programmes	Audit and investigation matters Report of the internal audit and investigation activities for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020 Report of the Advisory Committee on Oversight (ACO) for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020 Management responses	
	Update on the implementation of recommendations contained in the independent victim-centred review of UN-Women's policies and processes on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and as noted in the related management response	
Evaluation Corporate evaluation of UN-Women's support to UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans on women, peace and security Desk-based study of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 Management perspective and response	Evaluation Report on the evaluation function of UN-Women, 2020 Meta-analysis of evaluations managed by UN-Women in 2020 Corporate evaluation on UN-Women's contribution to ending violence against women Management perspective and response	
	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

	Draft integrated budget of UN-Women for the biennium 2022–2023 <i>(this agenda item is presented to the Board every two years)</i>	Integrated budget of UN-Women for the biennium 2022–2023 Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) Management response to the ACABQ Report <i>(this agenda item is presented to the Board every two years)</i>
	Strategic plan Draft Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women <i>(this agenda item is presented to the Board every four years)</i>	Strategic plan Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women <i>(this agenda item is presented to the Board every four years)</i>
Policy and programme matters Briefing on the operational response at the regional level	Programme and policy matters Briefing on the operational response at the regional level	
		Structured dialogue on financing Report on the structured dialogue on financing
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting Follow-up to the recommendations and decisions of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting		
	Annual Report of the Executive Director Report of the Executive Director of UN-Women on progress made on the Strategic Plan 2018-2021	
Field visit Report on the joint field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP Presentation of the report on the field visit of the UN-Women Executive Board		

Executive Board of UN-Women: Proposed Daily Schedules for 2021:

FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2021: 15-16 February, New York

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 15 February	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		Opening of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session 2021 • Adoption of the report of the second regular session 2020
		2	Policy and programme matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on the operational response at the regional level
	1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions, if any</i>
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	3	Audit matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 • Report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 • Implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations funds and programmes for the year ended 31 December 2019
		4	Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate evaluation of UN-Women’s support to UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans on women, peace and security • Desk-based study of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 • Management perspective and response
Tuesday, 16 February	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	5	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up to the recommendations and decisions of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting
		6	Field visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the joint field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP • Presentation of the report on the field visit of the UN-Women Executive Board

			Address by the Staff Council
		7	Other matters
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session 2021 • Adoption of the annual workplan 2021
			Closing of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women

ANNUAL SESSION 2021: 21-23 June, New York

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 21 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		Opening of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session 2021 • Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2021
		2	Annual Report of the Executive Director <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on progress made on the Strategic Plan 2018–2021
	1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	3	Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2022-2025
		4	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters ¶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft integrated budget estimate for UN-Women for the biennium 2022-2023
	<i>Post-meeting</i>		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
Tuesday, 22 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	5	Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279
		6	<p>Update on the Management response to the Independent review of UN-Women's policies and procedures for tackling Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the Management response to the Independent review of UN-Women's policies and procedures for tackling Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH)
	1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	7	<p>Policy and programme matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing on the operational response at the regional level
	<i>Post-meeting</i>		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
Wednesday, 23 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	8	<p>Audit and investigation matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of the internal audit and investigation activities for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020 Report of the Advisory Committee on Oversight (ACO) for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020 Management responses
		9	<p>Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the evaluation function of UN-Women, 2020 Meta-analysis of evaluations managed by UN-Women in 2020 Corporate evaluation on UN-Women's contribution to ending violence against women Management perspective and response
		10	Other matters
			<i>Adoption of draft decisions</i>
		1	<p>Organizational matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session 2021
			<p>Closing of the session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women

SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2021: 14 September, New York

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		Opening of the session

Tuesday, 14 September			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session 2021 • Adoption of the report on the annual session 2021
		2	Strategic plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2022-2025
		3	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated budget of UN-Women for the biennium 2022–2023 • Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) • Management response to the ACABQ Report
	1.15 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
		4	Structured dialogue on financing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the structured dialogue on financing
		5	Other matters
			<i>Adoption of draft decisions</i>
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session 2022 • Discussion of the draft annual workplan for 2022
			Closing of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women and the President of the Executive Board

Executive Board of UN-Women: Proposed List of Informals for 2021:

FIRST REGULAR SESSION	ANNUAL REGULAR SESSION	SECOND REGULAR SESSION
Orientation for the Executive Board		

Pre-session in advance of the first regular session	Pre-session in advance of the annual session	Pre-session in advance of the second regular session
	Informal briefing on update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279	
<p>Informal briefing on audit matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 - Report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 - Implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports for the year ended 31 December 2019 on the United Nations funds and programmes 	<p>Informal briefing on audit and investigation matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the internal audit and investigation activities for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020 - Report of the Advisory Committee on Oversight (ACO) for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020 - Management responses 	
	Informal briefing on Update on the implementation of recommendations contained in the independent victim-centred review of UN-Women's policies and processes on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and as noted in the related management response	
<p>Informal briefing on evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate evaluation of UN-Women's support to UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans on women, peace and security - Desk-based study of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 - Management perspective and response 	<p>Informal briefing on evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on the evaluation function of UN-Women, 2020 - Meta-analysis of evaluations managed by UN-Women in 2020 - Corporate evaluation on UN-Women's contribution to ending violence against women - management perspective and response 	
	<p>Informal briefing on financial, budgetary and administrative matters</p> <p>Draft integrated budget of UN-Women for the biennium 2022–2023</p> <p><i>(this agenda item is presented to the Board every two years)</i></p>	<p>Informal briefing on financial, budgetary and administrative matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated budget of UN-Women for the biennium 2022–2023 - Management response to the ACABQ Report <p><i>(this agenda item is presented to the Board every two years)</i></p>

	<p>Informal briefing on the Strategic Plan</p> <p>Draft Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (<i>this agenda item is presented to the Board every four years</i>)</p>	<p>Informal briefing on Strategic Plan</p> <p>Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (<i>this agenda item is presented to the Board every four years</i>)</p>
		<p>Informal briefing on structured dialogue on financing</p>
	<p>Informal briefing on Report of the Executive Director of UN-Women on progress made on the Strategic Plan 2018-2021</p>	

ANNEX 1: Background on previous decisions and papers produced

In General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations System (QCPR), operational paragraph 46 stressed *“the need to enhance system-wide coherence and efficiency, reduce duplication and build synergy across governing bodies of the entities of United Nations development system”*, and called upon:

(a) The respective bureaux to initiate discussions on improving the working methods of the joint meetings of the Executive Boards so that they offer a platform for exchange on issues with cross-cutting impact;

(b) Member States to initiate discussions on the working methods of the respective governing bodies in order to improve the efficiency, transparency and quality of official sessions, ensure more systematic follow-up by the entities of the United Nations development system on issues raised by their governing bodies and ensure timely follow-up on the implementation of the present resolution; and

(c) Entities of the United Nations development system to adopt and abide by clear rules, including on the dissemination of all documents and draft decisions, thereby allowing adequate time for prior consultation with Member States in their decision-making processes.

In response to this request in QCPR OP46, the Presidents of the 2017 Executive Boards of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP initiated discussions on the working methods of the Executive Boards, which resulted in a non-paper that was shared with the wider Board members in December 2017. This non-paper of the 2017 Presidents of the Executive Boards was the focus of an informal discussion entitled: *“Reflections on improving the working methods of the Executive Boards,”* at the 2018 joint meeting of the Executive Boards of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP (JMB), held on 1 June 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Following the JMB session, a *“President’s Summary”* was incorporated in the final report of the 2018 JMB. This report reflected the outcomes of the discussions on working methods and provided an overview of issues aimed at improving the working methods of the Executive Boards. The working methods also formed part of the discussion of the United Nations development system reform, whereby Member States on 31 May 2018 in the General Assembly resolution 72/279 operational paragraph 21 *“takes [took] note of the proposal of the Secretary-General to gradually merge the New York-based Executive Boards of funds and programmes, and urges [urged] Member States to continue making practical changes to further enhance the working methods of the Boards with the aim of improving the efficiency, transparency and quality of governance structures, including through deciding on ways to improve the functions of the joint meeting of the Boards”*.

In the second regular sessions of 2018, the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women, WFP respectively adopted decisions by which Member States requested the Bureaux of the Boards *“to launch a joint consultative process with Member States, with a view to examining the efficiency and quality of its current sessions, as well as the functions of the joint meeting of the Boards.”* The Presidents of the four Executive Boards met on 5 November 2018 to follow up on the implementation of the Boards’ decisions and agreed to form a Core Group to efficiently lead the discussion forward in consultation with the respective regional groups. The aim of the formation of the Core Group by the Presidents of the four Executive Boards

was to make the joint consultative process as open, transparent and inclusive as possible while ensuring the efficiency of the process. As its main deliverable, the Core Group was expected to produce a written account to be presented at the 2019 joint meeting of the Boards for subsequent consideration of its findings and suggestions for improving the working methods of the respective Boards.

For the composition of the Core Group, two Member States were designated from each regional group representing the Bureau and Executive Boards of the relevant funds and programmes. The Core Group produced a draft procedural decision submitted to the Executive Boards for negotiation at the 2019 first regular session. As a result, in January and February 2019, each respective Executive Board adopted procedural decisions. The decisions:

- Took note with appreciation of the formation of the Core Group of Member States to lead the joint consultative process with Member States, in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to examining the efficiency and quality of its current sessions, as well as the functions of the joint meetings of the Boards, building on the joint response prepared by the secretariats, and in close consultation with all Member States, seeking Member States' input to the written account of the Core Group;
- Requested the Executive Board secretariats to support the Core Group, upon request, in analysing the effects of its findings and suggestions;
- Looked forward to the written account of the Core Group, to be presented at the joint meeting of the Boards in May 2019, for subsequent consideration of its findings and recommendations by the members and observers of the respective Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP.

The written account of the Core Group was presented at the joint meeting of the Boards in May 2019. Subsequently, the Executive Boards adopted the following decisions: 2019/16 (UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS), 2019/9 (UNICEF), in which they agreed on a number of measures to continue improving the working methods of the Executive Boards with regard to the conduct of business; organization of the sessions, including proposals to increase interactivity; improving gender parity in the composition of panelists; harmonization of common issues, including criteria for field visits; increased coordination, smooth transition between outgoing and incoming Bureau members; monitoring systems to track the implementation of Board decision; joint online calendar; etc.

The Executive Boards also requested the secretariats of all the Boards to present, at their respective second regular sessions in 2019, initial proposals to improve the working methods of the joint meeting of the Boards, including an optimal timing for convening the joint meeting of the Boards; propose different alternatives of adjusting the date of the second regular session, mindful that it does not overlap with the other schedules; and to present practical proposals for improving the efficiency of the sessions of the Executive Board, including reviewing the agenda items and the efficient consideration of these.

In follow-up to the joint response from the secretariats, the Executive Boards adopted a new decision in September 2019, namely 2019/22 (UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS), 2019/13 (UN-Women), and 2019/20 (UNICEF), requesting the secretariats to present to the Executive Board for deliberation and consideration at the first regular session of 2020 an example of an annual programme of work, including informal briefings, for each of the three options presented in the joint response, with corresponding explanatory narratives on the

envisaged changes and their expected effect on Board oversight, effectiveness and efficiency, as well as further elaboration on the listed issues of joint relevance and interest to all Boards.¹⁸

This documentation was presented to the respective Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-Women in February 2020 as part of a 'Joint Response of the Executive Board Secretariats,' and the Boards determined that more information was required in order to make decisions on the way forward. The focus would be on presenting proposed 2021 workplans, and to this end, as mentioned in section (a) above, the respective decisions made the following requests:

- "...a concrete proposal for a rearranged annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2021, which includes daily schedules of the three sessions and informal consultations, supported by a detailed comparative analysis of potential implications on items for decisions, overall costs, efficiency and oversight, with a view to reducing the workload of the second regular session by shifting agenda items among formal sessions, as appropriate."
- "...stresses the need to continue to harmonize the consideration of common agenda items across the respective Executive Board agendas and requests the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UN-Women, to reflect it in the proposal of a rearranged workplan for 2021."

And as also indicated in the previous section, the respective Board decisions requested this information to be provided "ahead of the annual session 2020, with a view to conclude discussions on the working methods no later than the second regular session."

¹⁸ It should be noted that the WFP Executive Board, in decision [2019/EB.A/8](#) adopted at its annual session in June 2019, emphasized that it remained committed to formulating and implementing joint working methods unless they were, due to the operational mandate of WFP, its institutional set-up or its Rome-based context (e.g. the Rome-based agency calendar, Rome-based agency collaboration), not applicable or relevant for WFP.