



**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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Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2024

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2024/1

Reports of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2022

The Executive Board

1. *Notes* the unqualified audit opinions on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) issued by the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2022;
2. *Acknowledges* the progress made and supports the ongoing efforts of UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors;
3. *Encourages* UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS to enhance their efforts to implement all open recommendations;
4. *Encourages* UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNOPS to include a statement of internal controls in their financial reports;
5. *Acknowledges* the observations and recommendations on risk management and decides to include at its first regular session a recurring joint agenda item for decision on risk management, to provide updates on the continuous work to improve the system of enterprise risk management and to inform the Board of critical risks of strategic importance;
6. *Requests* that for future presentations of reports from the Board of Auditors to the Executive Board, a representative from the Board of Auditors be available for questions from the Executive Board, and further requests that adequate time be allotted for remarks from the representative of the Board of Auditors and for questions from the Executive Board following the presentation of the report of the Board of Auditors for each agency;
7. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to provide a joint update to the Executive Board, as a recurring item for decision at the first regular session, on how the organizations are continually strengthening organizational culture, including their actions to prevent and respond to all forms of discrimination, including racism and racial discrimination, to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion, and to improve geographical representation and gender balance;
8. *Requests* that the annual address by the Chair of the Staff Council be included formally under the new agenda item on organizational culture, to allow integration of the perspective of staff into discussions on organizational culture;

With regard to UNDP:

9. *Notes* the progress made by UNDP in closing open audit recommendations and acknowledges that all recommendations issued prior to 2021 have been implemented;

With regard to UNCDF:

10. *Commends* UNCDF for closing all recommendations issued prior to 2022;

With regard to UNFPA:

11. *Commends* the sustained high rate of recommendation implementation by UNFPA in recent years;

12. *Urges* UNFPA to take appropriate measures to strengthen supply chain management and address associated risks, in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, and requests UNFPA to provide ahead of the second regular session 2024 a written update on actions taken, followed by a presentation;

With regard to UNOPS:

13. *Notes* the progress made by UNOPS in closing open recommendations;

14. *Notes with concern* the observations and recommendations in relation to the implementation of the comprehensive response plan;

15. *Appreciates* the ongoing efforts of UNOPS to strengthen the approval process of preselection requests in procurement, and requests an update on the actions taken as part of the consultation process on the ongoing review of the UNOPS financial regulations and rules;

16. *Underlines* the need to enhance risk management and risk awareness to improve governance and internal controls in UNOPS.

2 February 2024

2024/2

UNDP evaluation

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to the digitalization of public services (DP/2024/6) and the management response (DP/2024/7);

2. *Acknowledges* the results achieved by UNDP and its crucial role supporting countries in the digital transformation of public services;

3. *Encourages* UNDP to build on its work on digitalization of public services, including on digital public goods and digital public infrastructure, by strengthening support to programme countries, upon their request, focusing greater attention in the areas of digital legal identity, digital financial services and data interoperability; bridging the digital divide, including the gender digital divide; and securing data privacy and personal data protection and legal identity management;

4. *Further encourages* UNDP to adopt a targeted approach to support least developed countries in their efforts to strengthen digital public infrastructure and regulatory frameworks for improving public services and economic development;

5. *Encourages* UNDP to strengthen its efforts to mobilize and create an enabling environment for development financing for sectoral digitalization approaches and digital transformation at the country level;

6. *Also encourages* UNDP to facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation for digital transformation and strategically engage in enabling South-South cooperation to accelerate the development of additional capacities and learning lessons on digital transformation;

7. *Requests* that UNDP management address the issues raised by the evaluation, taking the conclusions and recommendations into consideration in its future programming.

2 February 2024

2024/3
UNFPA evaluation

The Executive Board

With regard to the UNFPA evaluation policy (DP/FPA/2024/1):

1. *Welcomes* the enhancements introduced in the 2024 evaluation policy and the fact that the policy has been informed by the conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 independent peer review;
2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the evaluation function at UNFPA and underscores the value of high-quality independent evaluation evidence in supporting the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. *Acknowledges* the transparent and participatory process undertaken in developing the 2024 evaluation policy;
4. *Encourages* the continued engagement of UNFPA in joint, inter-agency and system-wide evaluations, including with the system-wide evaluation office, as well as in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework evaluation exercises at country level;
5. *Requests* UNFPA to continue reporting to the Executive Board, as part of the annual report on the evaluation function, on the implementation of the evaluation policy, including on achieving the funding targets and related funding mechanisms;
6. *Approves* the 2024 evaluation policy;

With regard to the multi-year costed evaluation plan, 2024-2027 (DP/FPA/2024/2)

7. *Welcomes* the relevance and utility of the multi-year costed evaluation plan for 2024-2027;
8. *Acknowledges* the transparent and participatory process undertaken in developing the multi-year costed evaluation plan for 2024-2027;
9. *Approves* the multi-year costed evaluation plan for 2024-2027.

2 February 2024

2024/4
Comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews on UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. *Acknowledges* the progress in implementing the comprehensive response plan and encourages the ongoing transformation of UNOPS;
2. *Decides* that the progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations will be reported to the Executive Board through continued monthly briefings, to be conducted by UNOPS senior management, until the first regular session 2025;
3. *Takes note* of the findings of the interim third-party review of the status of implementation of the recommendations;
4. *Takes note* of the still ongoing review of the whistle-blowing process and encourages UNOPS management to accelerate progress in this regard;

5. *Underlines* the need for UNOPS to continue efforts on implementing the strategic plan and budget, to enhance governance, risk management and internal controls, and to increase efforts on timely, efficient and cost-effective information technology-transformation, as identified in the interim third-party review;
6. *Requests* UNOPS to develop and present to the Executive Board, no later than the second regular session 2024, an implementation strategy for the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme, including risk analysis, budget and framework, with targets and timelines for monitoring, and further requests that UNOPS includes updates on this in monthly briefings and formal sessions;
7. *Recalls* its decisions 2022/13, 2023/18 and 2023/22 to freeze all transfers out of the operational reserve for any purpose other than daily operations;
8. *Recalls* its decision 2023/22 that approved the carry forward of the balance of \$23.6 million of the allocated sum of \$35.4 million for use to implement the comprehensive response plan within the current Strategic Plan cycle, 2022-2025;
9. *Further recalls* its decision 2023/22 to release the second tranche of \$11.8 million for implementation of the comprehensive response plan;
10. *Requests* detailed information by 31 March 2024 on utilization of the first tranche and a justification for the resulting carryover amount;
11. *Approves* the carrying forward of the balance of the first tranche of \$11.8 million into the UNOPS biennium budget, 2024-2025, for implementation of the comprehensive response plan;
12. *Reaffirms* it will release further tranches at the request of UNOPS at a future formal session in line with decision 2023/4, paragraph 19;

With regard to the requests for additional information on the project portfolio of UNOPS and alignment with its original mandate in General Assembly resolution 65/176 and its restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, within paragraph 4 of decision 2023/22 and paragraph 7 of decision 2023/23:

13. *Expresses appreciation* for the information provided on the alignment of the past and future UNOPS portfolio with its original mandate in resolution 65/176 and its restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;
14. *Encourages* UNOPS to proceed to implement the envisaged portfolio insights gateway, making detailed portfolio information publicly available in real time;
15. *Strongly encourages* UNOPS to continue to critically assess new demands for services to determine their alignment with the original mandate and to engage partners, in particular from the United Nations, if their mandates are more suitable to meet the demand, and furthermore, to continuously review the current portfolio to ensure alignment with the original mandate;

With regard to the terms of reference of the external third-party review, which was requested to be commissioned by UNOPS at the end of the implementation period of the comprehensive response plan, within paragraph 18 of decision 2022/24:

16. *Recalls* its decisions 2022/24 and 2023/23 for UNOPS to commission a third-party review, which will be presented to the Executive Board at the end of the implementation period of the comprehensive response plan;

17. *Recalls* its decision 2023/23 for UNOPS to submit the terms of reference of the external third-party review to the Executive Board for input and validation and requests that UNOPS submit these at the second regular session 2024;

18. *Decides* that the third-party review on the recommendations that have been concluded by the end of 2024 will be conducted in early 2025, with the exception of one recommendation spanning until 2027 which concerns a multi-year programme on process innovation and digitalization;

19. *Requests* that UNOPS commission a third-party review on the implementation of the last recommendation, which concerns a multi-year programme on process innovation and digitalization, once implemented;

With regard to accountability following the sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) and associated management crisis:

20. *Notes* that impunity, or the perception thereof, has a detrimental effect on staff morale and trust in accountability systems;

21. *Recalls* decision 2022/21, paragraph 3, and requests the Executive Director, liaising with the appropriate oversight bodies, to ensure that impunity, or the perception thereof, is prevented, and that all individuals implicated in the S3i crisis, including previous senior UNOPS leadership, are held accountable, and to keep the Executive Board informed.

2 February 2024

2024/5

UNOPS organizational culture

The Executive Board

With regard to the UNOPS strategy for the implementation of organizational culture reform fully aligned with United Nations norms and values, as requested within paragraph 11 of decision 2023/23:

1. *Welcomes* the UNOPS response to the third-party review of organizational culture commissioned in March 2023;
2. *Takes note* of the proposed approach to reshape and embed a cultural transformation at UNOPS, rooted in the values of the United Nations;
3. *Welcomes* the steps and actions already taken in driving strategic transformation and shifting the organizational culture;
4. *Decides* that UNOPS should present to the Board, ahead of the annual session 2024, a detailed workplan with relevant milestones to implement the recommendations contained in the third-party review of the organizational culture;
5. *Decides* that progress and challenges in implementing the workplan will be reported through the continued monthly briefings on the comprehensive response plan until the first regular session 2025;

With regard to the complete and unredacted results and reports of all the Pulse surveys and of the organizational culture assessment of UNOPS conducted by KPMG, as requested within paragraph 12 of decision 2023/23:

6. *Takes note* of the results of the Pulse surveys and encourages UNOPS management to respond promptly to staff concerns raised;
7. *Requests* UNOPS to increasingly engage with its workforce, including through regular Pulse surveys, and to report to the Executive Board the survey results and follow-up actions taken in response;

With regard to the UNOPS plan on the implementation of paragraph 11 of decision 2023/1, on limiting the use of individual contractor agreements, and the update on the progress towards the January 2024 milestones, as requested within paragraph 16 of decision 2023/23:

8. *Welcomes* the update regarding identified positions that have been filled (or are in the process of) in line with the original recommendation of the United Nations Board of Auditors;
9. *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.

2 February 2024

2024/6

UNOPS distribution of excess reserves to paying entities: UNOPS proposal on the alternative use of undisbursed funds

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the good faith effort by UNOPS and progress to distribute all excess reserves, aligned with the Executive Board decisions, to paying entities;
2. *Welcomes* the third-party independent review of the distribution of excess reserves and takes notes of the validation of the UNOPS methodology used;
3. *Decides* to extend until 31 December 2024 the deadline for the distribution of the excess reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021 and requests UNOPS to continue engagement with paying entities;
4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the options proposed by UNOPS for use of undisbursed funds, requests an update ahead of the second regular session 2024 on the approximate amount remaining, and agrees to decide on their use at the second regular session.

2 February 2024

2024/7

Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2024

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2024, it:

Item 1**Organizational matters**

Elected on 10 January 2024 the following members of the Bureau for 2024:

President:	H.E. Mr. Muhammad Muhith (Bangladesh)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mrs. Leonor Zalabata Torres (Colombia)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Cornel Feruță (Romania)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Thomas Peter Zahneisen (Germany)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Tefaye Yilma Sabo (Ethiopia)

Adopted the agenda ([DP/2024/L.1](#)) and approved the workplan for its first regular session 2024;

Adopted the report of the second regular session 2023 ([DP/2024/1](#));

Adopted the annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2024 ([DP/2024/CRP.1](#));

Adopted the tentative workplan for the annual session 2024;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2024:

Annual session: 3 to 7 June 2024

Second regular session: 26 to 30 August 2024

Joint segment**Item 2****Recommendations of the Board of Auditors**

Adopted decision 2024/1 on the reports of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2022;

Item 3**Follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting**

Took note of the joint UNDP/UNFPA report on the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board ([DP-FPA/2024/1](#));

Item 4**Field visits**

Took note of the report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme to Senegal ([DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF-UNW-WFP/2024/1](#)); and took note of the presentation on the field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to Uruguay;

UNDP segment**Item 5****Human Development Report**

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

Item 6**UNDP country programmes and related matters**

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

Bhutan ([DP/DCP/BTN/3](#));
 Brazil ([DP/DCP/BRA/4](#));
 Cambodia ([DP/DCP/KHM/5](#));
 Gambia ([DP/DCP/GMB/4](#));
 Guinea ([DP/DCP/GIN/4](#));
 Madagascar ([DP/DCP/MDG/5](#));
 Mauritius ([DP/DCP/MUS/5](#));
 Philippines ([DP/DSP/PHL/4](#));
 Seychelles ([DP/DCP/SYC/4](#));

Took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Cuba as approved by the UNDP Administrator ([DP/2024/5](#)); and approved the second and third one-year extensions, respectively, of the country programmes for Ukraine and Sudan ([DP/2024/5](#));

Item 7

UNDP evaluation

Adopted decision 2024/2 on the evaluation of UNDP support to the digitalization of public services ([DP/2024/6](#)) and the management response thereto ([DP/2024/7](#));

UNFPA segment

Item 8

UNFPA evaluation

Adopted decision 2024/3 on the UNFPA evaluation policy ([DP/FPA/2024/1](#)) and the multi-year costed evaluation plan, 2024-2027 ([DP/FPA/2024/2](#));

Item 9

Country programmes and related matters

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

Bhutan ([DP/FPA/CPD/BTN/8](#));
 Brazil ([DP/FPA/CPD/BRA/7](#));
 Cambodia ([DP/FPA/CPD/KHM/7](#));
 Gambia ([DP/FPA/CPD/GMB/9](#));
 Guinea ([DP/FPA/CPD/GIN/9](#));
 Madagascar ([DP/FPA/CPD/MDG/9](#));
 Nicaragua ([DP/FPA/CPD/NIC/10](#));
 Papua New Guinea ([DP/FPA/CPD/PNG/7](#));
 Philippines ([DP/FPA/CPD/PHL/9](#));

Approved the second and third, one-year extensions, respectively, of the country programmes for Ukraine and Sudan ([DP/FPA/2024/4](#));

UNOPS segment

Item 10

United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2024/4 on the comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews of UNOPS;

Adopted decision 2024/5 on UNOPS organizational culture;

Adopted decision 2024/6 on UNOPS distribution of excess reserves to paying entities: UNOPS proposal on the alternative use of undisbursed funds.

2 February 2024

2024/8

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. *Takes note with appreciation* of the annex on the United Nations development system reform checklist prepared by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, which is included with their respective updates;
3. *Encourages* 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;
4. *Reaffirms* the strong commitment to the United Nations development system reform, and encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to work closely with United Nations organizations, under the leadership of resident coordinators and in collaboration with United Nations country teams, stakeholders and other development partners, to support country efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework;
5. *Calls* upon UNDP and UNFPA to take further steps to align their country programmes and respective resource allocations with the Cooperation Frameworks, and to strengthen monitoring and reporting on how their entity-specific activities contribute to collective United Nations country team results, in line with national priorities and needs;
6. *Calls* upon UNOPS to continue contributing to the implementation of the Cooperation Frameworks through the delivery of its mandate;
7. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to adhere to all elements of the Management and Accountability Framework and encourages their constructive engagement in the upcoming review of the Framework;
8. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to take further steps to ensure effective information-sharing with resident coordinators within the respective country teams;
9. *Notes* the importance of pooled funding for UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated manner, and encourages them to continue increasing their engagement with pooled funds, in line with the agencies' respective mandates.

7 June 2024

2024/9

Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit activities and investigations in 2023, and management responses

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the respective audit offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS ([DP/2024/10](#); [DP/FPA/2024/6](#); [DP/OPS/2024/4](#)), which have been harmonized with those

of other United Nations organizations, in line with Executive Board decision 2020/10, and the reports of the respective audit committees as well as the management responses;

2. *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;

3. *Recalls* its decision 2023/7 and commends the audit and investigation offices for the proactive approach to organize closed briefings limited to the members and observers of the Executive Board, to share relevant information regarding the annual workplan, risk assessments, emerging risks and control issues, and encourages the audit and investigation offices to continue this practice;

4. *Encourages* UNDP, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UNFPA and UNOPS to ensure full and timely implementation of audit recommendations;

5. *Reiterates* Executive Board decision 2020/10, which encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to use harmonized definitions and reporting, including harmonized audit ratings, to provide the Executive Board with a more coherent overview of findings and results;

6. *Acknowledges* that the internal audit offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS have both assurance and advisory functions that add value to the organizations, and requests them, in line with their independence from management and in alignment with the international standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors, to strive to achieve a balance between advisory and assurance engagements;

With regard to UNDP:

7. *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;

8. *Notes* the recurring findings and recommendations on risk management, particularly those made by the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI), the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit, and requests UNDP to promptly implement the recommendations directed at UNDP;

With regard to UNCDF:

9. *Takes note* of the OAI audit rating opinion that systems of governance, risk management and controls within UNCDF are ‘partially satisfactory, major improvements needed’ in some areas;

10. *Requests* the Fund to continue to prioritize fully implementing all recommendations from the report in a proactive and transparent manner and to inform the Executive Board of progress in an informal briefing ahead of the second regular session 2024;

With regard to UNFPA:

11. *Notes with appreciation* the Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAI) opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNFPA governance, risk management and control processes, as set out in document [DP/FPA/2024/6](#);

With regard to UNOPS:

12. *Takes note* of the opinion, based on the scope of work undertaken, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNOPS framework of governance, risk management and control (pursuant to Executive Board decision 2015/13);

13. *Requests* UNOPS to further harmonize the format of its management response to annual reports on internal audit and investigation with those of UNDP and UNFPA, and, particularly, to provide a summary of actions taken to address key audit findings.

7 June 2024

2024/10

Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities in 2023, and management responses

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP ([DP/2024/11](#)), UNFPA ([DP/FPA/2024/7](#)) and UNOPS ([DP/OPS/2024/5](#)), 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 UNDP:

4. *Commends* progress made by the UNDP Ethics Office in continuing to strengthen the ethical culture of UNDP;

With regard to UNFPA:

5. *Commends* the continued progress in the work of the UNFPA Ethics Office;

With regard to UNOPS:

6. *Takes note* of the implementation of the recommendations from the independent review of the UNOPS ethics function and the comprehensive response plan in relation to ethics;
7. *Commends* progress made by the UNOPS Ethics Office in renewing its efforts to promote a culture of ethics at UNOPS;
8. *Requests* UNOPS to provide management response to annual reports of the Ethics Office as a separate document;

With regard to the Joint Inspection Unit review of organizational ombudsman services across the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2015/6) and its recommendation 5:

9. *Notes* the separate mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman for the United Nations funds and programmes as per [ST/SGB/2016/7](#), and invites the Ombudsman's Office to present its annual report at the first regular session of the Executive Board, as part of the organizational culture agenda item;
10. *Invites* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to provide the Ombudsman's Office with all necessary resources to adequately perform its mandate, as per their cost-sharing agreement;

With regard to the Joint Inspection Unit note on the review of measures and mechanisms for addressing racism and racial discrimination in United Nations system organizations: managing for achieving organizational effectiveness (JIU/NOTE/2022/1/Rev.1):

11. *Expresses concern* that despite progress in combating racism and discrimination in certain parts of the United Nations system, racism and racial discrimination remain major and underrecognized problems in United Nations organizations;
12. *Takes note* of the management responses by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit note;
13. *Urges* the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to implement the entity-specific recommendations 2, 3, 5 and 6 outlined in the note, and emphasizes the importance of harmonizing the outcomes of each recommendation;
14. *Also urges* the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in collaboration, where possible, with the management of all relevant entities and through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to further efforts to achieve the system-wide recommendations 1 and 4;
15. *Requests* the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to develop timelines for the implementation of the entity-specific recommendations mentioned above, to be presented at the first regular session in 2025;
16. *Also requests* the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to jointly present updates on the organizations' individual efforts to implement all recommendations by the Joint Inspection Unit at the annual session of the Executive Board in 2025;
17. *Invites* the Bureau, in coordination with the bureaux of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme, to consider the work of the organizations on addressing racism and racial discrimination as a topic for the joint meeting of the boards;
18. *Decides* to add an agenda item on addressing racism and racial discrimination for information at the first regular session 2025 and for decision at the annual session 2025.

7 June 2024

2024/11

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, and respective action plans;
2. *Welcomes* the new uniform template and approach to reporting on actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to include, in reporting, a brief synthesis outlining collective progress and shared challenges and to better align reporting to future protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment action plans;
3. *Recalls* decision 2023/9 and requests UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue, with firm commitment and support from leadership:

(a) 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, 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 and protected against retaliation;

(b) To report to the Executive Board about all cases in a transparent and accountable manner and to use iReport for sexual exploitation and abuse cases;

(c) To increase their system-wide collaboration efforts on prevention, protection, and response, including through conducting joint assessments of implementing partners, joint capacity-building of implementing partners and community engagement.

4. *Welcomes* that risks associated to the topic have been incorporated into respective enterprise risk management systems or safeguarding mechanisms, and encourages UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to increase the rate of sexual exploitation and abuse risk assessments for their programmes and projects and design appropriate mitigation measures;

5. *Recalls* decision 2023/9, on piloting the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme, welcomes the steps taken by UNOPS and UNFPA and encourages UNDP to also pilot the scheme and requests these agencies to report on the results of the pilot and lessons learned, within existing reporting;

6. *Requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to update the Executive Board on their actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and decides to include this as a recurring item for decision during the annual session.

7 June 2024

2024/12

Assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decision 2022/22, which requested the Bureau of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in consultation with the relevant bureaux of United Nations development system entities, to provide options and cost estimates for an assessment, including the feasibility of a third-party assessment by an entity external to the United Nations system with independent expertise on governance and oversight, of how the Executive Board, in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS as well as the United Nations system, executes its governance and oversight functions, with a view to ensuring that these functions are aligned with the highest international standards and best practices;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of the governance and oversight of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women” (JIU/REP/2023/7), and takes note of its recommendations;

3. *Recalls* its decisions 2022/24, paragraph 11, and 2023/14, paragraphs 3 to 5, in which the Executive Board expressed the need to further consider relevant recommendations made on governance and oversight, addressed to the Executive Board;

4. *Stresses* the importance of inclusive and meaningful participation and consultation of Board members and observers, in particular of programme countries, including through cross-board and cross-regional consultations, and stresses the need for phased, inclusive,

transparent and balanced processes when proposing action on the Joint Inspection Unit report;

5. *Stresses* that improvements to the way the Executive Board execute their governance and oversight functions should contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals by enabling UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to deliver effectively and efficiently on their mandates and by ensuring that they are responsive to the needs and priorities of programme countries;

6. *Commits*, therefore, to a two-track process that constitutes: (a) an information-gathering exercise; and (b) the establishment of a working group;

7. *Confirms* that consultations and information notes on the report do not prejudice any decision of the Executive Board on how to address the Joint Inspection Unit report and its recommendations;

8. *Decides* to include an item for decision on the progress of the consideration of the Joint Inspection Unit report on the agendas of every formal session, until decided otherwise;

9. *Requests* the Bureau to provide, in consultation with the bureaux of the participating Boards, an update on the implementation of this decision at the second regular session 2024;

With regard to additional information required:

10. *Requests* the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to provide, in an information note, their initial views of the Joint Inspection Unit report;

11. *Requests* the directors of the independent offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to provide, in an information note, their initial views of the Joint Inspection Unit report;

12. *Requests* the Bureau to organize, in coordination with the bureaux of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UN-Women, a joint informal consultation of the Executive Boards with the Joint Inspection Unit on the report by the first regular session 2025, while taking into consideration other United Nations processes, to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation, particularly of programme countries;

13. *Requests* the Bureau to undertake an open and inclusive consultation with Executive Board members and observers on information and analysis needs relating to the Joint Inspection Unit report and its recommendations, to support the working group on the Joint Inspection Unit report;

With regard to the working group:

14. *Decides* to establish a working group to study and report on the Joint Inspection Unit report, in which representatives of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UN-Women will be invited to participate;

15. *Requests* the Bureau, in potential collaboration with the bureaux of UNICEF and UN-Women, to develop, through a cross-board and cross-regional consultative process, terms of reference that enable the operationalization of the working group and to present it to the Executive Board for adoption at the first regular session 2025;

16. *Decides* that the Bureau, in consultation with the regional groups and in collaboration with the bureaux of participating Boards, will facilitate the nomination of members or observers of the Executive Boards to participate in the working group, up to an aggregate total of 15, with equal representation of the five regional groups, to be confirmed by the participating boards through a silence procedure, ahead of the first regular session 2025;

17. *Requests* that the secretariat provide information and support services, when and as requested by the Joint Inspection Unit working group, to further its work;

18. *Requests* the working group to provide regular updates to the participating Boards, as necessary, starting after the first regular session 2025.

7 June 2024

2024/13

Midterm review of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Administrator for 2023

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the midterm review of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Administrator for 2023 ([DP/2024/12](#) and [Corr.1](#)) and its annexes, the report of UNDP on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2023 ([DP/2024/12/Add.1](#)) and the statistical annex ([DP/2024/12/Add.2](#));

2. *Welcomes* progress made towards the outcome areas of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 and, in this regard, encourages UNDP to further its efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development, and strengthen resilience to shocks and crises;

3. *Requests* UNDP to continue improving its results reporting, including by identifying where activities are not achieving intended results and how the organization is learning from this;

4. *Requests* that UNDP take into account the lessons learned from the first two years of implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 in its continued implementation and also in the design of subsequent strategic plans;

5. *Requests* that UNDP include in midterm reviews of future strategic plans detailed information on its proposed adjustments, for consideration of the Executive Board;

6. *Encourages* UNDP to continue responding to specific development challenges of programme countries, in consultation with their respective South-South cooperation focal points, through South-South and triangular cooperation, including by strengthening its collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

7. *Requests* UNDP to assess its accountability framework against the updated 2023 Joint Inspection Unit reference accountability framework, as presented in the Unit report on the review of accountability frameworks in the United Nations system organizations ([JIU/REP/2023/3](#)), and adjust it as necessary, by the annual session 2025;

8. *Welcomes* UNDP progress towards achieving the outputs of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and urges UNDP to enhance progress towards achieving the partially met outputs, also by enhancing its portfolio and other innovative approaches.

7 June 2024

2024/14**Midterm review of the UNDP integrated resources plan and the integrated budget, 2022-2025***The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the midterm review of the UNDP integrated resources plan and integrated budget, 2022-2025 ([DP/2024/13](#));
2. *Welcomes* the strong UNDP performance in balancing the institutional budget and achieving efficiency, against the backdrop of the complex funding landscape;
3. *Welcomes* the detailed overview of the allocation of regular resources and the comprehensive analysis of the impact of the current funding levels.

7 June 2024

2024/15**UNDP evaluation***The Executive Board*

With regard to the annual report on evaluation, 2023 ([DP/2024/16](#) and [Corr. 1](#)) and the management commentaries thereto:

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 2023, and requests that UNDP address the issues raised;

With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to private sector development and structural transformation ([DP/2024/17](#)) and the management response thereto ([DP/2024/18](#)):

2. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to private sector development and structural transformation and requests UNDP management to address the issues raised in the report and its recommendations, as outlined in the management response thereto;

With regard to the evaluation of UNDP support to ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation ([DP/2024/19](#)) and the management response thereto ([DP/2024/20](#)):

3. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP support to ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation and requests UNDP management to address the issues raised in the report and its recommendations, as outlined in the management response thereto.

7 June 2024

2024/16**Midterm review of the UNCDF Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and the report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2023***The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the midterm review of the UNCDF Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and the report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2023 ([DP/2024/22](#));

2. *Acknowledges* the progress made by UNCDF in undertaking reforms to enhance implementation of its Strategic Framework, 2022-2025 and requests UNCDF to continue to ensure an inclusive, open, respectful and empowering organizational culture for all staff as an integral part of the reforms;
3. *Encourages* UNCDF to further explore how it can respond to the financing needs of the least developed countries, including its role in providing catalytic and blended Sustainable Development Goal financing, while enhancing collaboration with the United Nations development system and development finance institutions;
4. *Commits* to supporting UNCDF to achieve its base growth resource requirements of \$25 million per year in regular resources as per the Strategic Framework, 2022-2025.

7 June 2024

2024/17

United Nations Volunteers programme: annual report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the results achieved in 2023 and the findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Strategic Framework 2022-2025, as reflected in the report of the Administrator ([DP/2024/23](#));
2. *Recognizes* that volunteerism can be a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and expresses appreciation to all UN Volunteers for their exemplary contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. *Acknowledges* the efforts of UNV in promoting disability inclusion and encourages UNV to continue advocating for the inclusion of persons with disabilities;
4. *Takes note* of results in further improving its operational efficiency and agility, and in this regard, welcomes the recommendation of the midterm review to revise the deployment speed target for national volunteers;
5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Special Voluntary Fund in delivering the UNV Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and urges all development partners in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund;
6. *Takes note* of the proclamation of 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development and encourages UNV to facilitate implementation of the International Year.

7 June 2024

2024/18

Annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the Integrated midterm review and progress report on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 [[DP/FPA/2024/4 \(Part I\)](#)], the statistical and financial review, 2023 [[DP/FPA/2024/4 \(Part I/Add.1\)](#)] and their related annexes, as well as the report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2023 [[DP/FPA/2024/4 \(Part II\)](#)];

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by UNFPA in achieving the results of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, as recorded during the first two years of its implementation and urges UNFPA to address identified gaps and challenges in the Strategic Plan implementation going forward;
3. *Approves* the proposed adjustments to the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, based on the findings of the midterm review, as contained in DP/FPA/2024/4 (Part I) and annex 1;
4. *Welcomes* the six remedial priorities to improve UNFPA readiness and the execution of its Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;
5. *Encourages* UNFPA to continue to strengthen its humanitarian response and preparedness capacity;
6. *Reaffirms* the importance of high-quality data and its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, acknowledges the role of UNFPA in generating high-quality population data, and encourages UNFPA to strengthen its capacity and efforts in this regard;
7. *Notes with concern* the stagnating numbers in the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality and encourages UNFPA to accelerate its efforts on this matter;
8. *Welcomes* the UNFPA headquarters optimization process and its intended benefits, and recognizing the efforts of UNFPA to keep the Board informed on the process thus far:
 - (a) *Requests* UNFPA to continue to provide periodic briefings to the Executive Board on the progress of the headquarters optimization process, prior to each session, until the first regular session 2026;
 - (b) *Requests* UNFPA to share the risk assessment and mitigation measures underlying the headquarters optimization process with the Executive Board before the second regular session 2024;
 - (c) *Requests* UNFPA to monitor the impacts of the headquarters optimization process on performance and effectiveness, integrate results of this monitoring in subsequent annual reports of the Executive Director, and carry out an independent assessment of the headquarters optimization process by 2026, after its completion;
 - (d) *Encourages* UNFPA to continue to proactively engage with the Staff Council on the headquarters optimization process and other significant change processes;
9. *Requests* UNFPA to assess its accountability framework against the updated 2023 Joint Inspection Unit reference accountability framework, as presented in the Joint Inspection Unit report on the review of accountability frameworks in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2023/3), and adjust it, as necessary, by the annual session 2025.

7 June 2024

2024/19

Midterm review of the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the midterm review of the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025 (DP/FPA/2024/10), and welcomes its alignment with the midterm review of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 [DP/FPA/2024/4 (Part I)], and also takes note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the midterm review of the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025 (DP/FPA/2024/8);

2. *Takes note* of the results framework and resource requirements reflected in the revised estimates for the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025, including linkages of results and resources, as contained in document DP/FPA/2024/10;
3. *Approves* the presentation of activities and associated costs, as reflected in document DP/FPA/2024/10;
4. *Also approves* revised gross estimates for the institutional budget 2022-2025 in the amount of \$872.3 million, noting that these estimates include \$249.8 million for indirect cost recovery from other resources;
5. *Further approves* a revised ceiling for global and regional programmes during 2022-2025 in the amount of \$211.6 million in regular resources, noting that this amount cannot be exceeded without approval of the Executive Board;
6. *Recalls* Executive Board decision 2015/3, and approves a revised amount of \$42 million of regular resources for the UNFPA emergency fund, and also reaffirms the existing authorization for the UNFPA Executive Director to increase the emergency fund by up to \$2 million beyond the ceiling in any given year if the number and extent of the emergencies so warrant;
7. *Endorses* the proposal of the Executive Director, similar to decisions 2008/6, 2012/13, 2013/32, 2017/24 and 2021/9, to grant her exceptional authority during 2024-2025 to access up to an additional \$5.6 million in regular resources for security measures, provided these are used for new and emerging security mandates, as defined by the directives of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, and requests UNFPA to report to the Executive Board annually on the use of those funds in its statistical and financial review.

7 June 2024

2024/20 UNFPA evaluation

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on the evaluation function, 2023 (DP/FPA/2024/5), including the programme of work and budget of the Independent Evaluation Office in 2024, and related management commentaries;
2. *Welcomes* the progress and achievements of the evaluation function and the continued adaptability and responsiveness of the evaluation function to local contexts and new and emerging global challenges;
3. *Also welcomes* the contributions to United Nations interagency and system-wide evaluation efforts, and fostering national evaluation capacity development;
4. *Encourages* the Independent Evaluation Office to continue using innovative practices, including artificial intelligence;
5. *Also encourages* UNFPA to continue to enhance the capacity of the decentralized evaluation function and humanitarian evaluations, and to increase investments in the evaluation function.

7 June 2024

2024/21

Report on implementation of the restated UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report ([DP/OPS/2024/6](#)) and its annexes;
2. *Recognizes* the contributions of UNOPS to the results of United Nations and other partners in 2023, and welcomes its progress in implementing the restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;
3. *Takes note* of the new format and approach of the report of the Executive Director on implementation, and encourages further alignment in format and structure with the annual reporting of UNDP and UNFPA;
4. *Reiterates* decision 2023/23, paragraph 8, that UNOPS must refrain from new strategic initiatives, subject to approval from the Executive Board;
5. *Recalls* decisions 2022/13, 2023/18, 2023/22, 2024/4 to freeze all transfers out of the operational reserve for any purpose other than daily operations;
6. *Takes note* of the annual report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, and draws attention to recommendation 5 of the “Review of the use of non-staff personnel and related contractual modalities in the United Nations system organizations” ([JIU/REP/2023/8](#)), and requests UNOPS to implement it in full;
7. Requests UNOPS to assess its accountability framework against the updated 2023 Joint Inspection Unit reference accountability framework, as presented in the Unit’s report on the “Review of accountability frameworks in the United Nations system organizations” ([JIU/REP/2023/3](#)), and adjust it as necessary, by the annual session 2025.

7 June 2024

2024/22

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

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the document ([DP/OPS/2024/7](#));
2. *Acknowledges* the progress made by UNOPS in implementing the comprehensive response plan in response to the third-party reviews of UNOPS and encourages UNOPS to continue to focus on implementing all recommendations and outstanding actions in a timely manner until the comprehensive response plan is completed;
3. *Calls on* UNOPS to implement in full the whistleblower process to ensure that strong, safe and confidential systems for whistleblowing and protection against retaliation for all staff and non-staff are in place, to safeguard the protection of individuals that report wrongdoings, risks and misconduct within UNOPS;
4. *Recalls* decision 2024/5 to increasingly engage with its staff and non-staff, including through Pulse surveys, and to report to the Executive Board the complete and unredacted survey results and follow-up actions taken in response, and requests these be shared within three months of conducting the survey;

5. *Recalls* decision 2024/4, paragraphs 20 and 21, on the prevention of impunity, and in line with rule 16 of the rules of procedure, requests the Bureau to organize a closed-door confidential briefing with the Office of Internal Oversight Services with a view to discuss Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation (S3i) initiative accountability and related issues;

With regard to the terms of reference of the external third-party review, which was requested to be commissioned by UNOPS at the end of the implementation period of the comprehensive response plan, within paragraph 18 of decision 2022/24;

6. *Recalls* its decision 2024/4 that the third-party review will be conducted in early 2025 and that UNOPS will commission a final third-party review on the implementation of the last recommendation, which concerns a multi-year programme on process innovation and digitalization, once implemented;

7. *Takes note* of the draft terms of reference in relation to the external third-party review to be submitted as per decision 2022/24 by the Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG), and requests the IAIG to present the terms of reference to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2024;

With regard to the detailed workplan with relevant milestones to implement the recommendations contained in the third-party review of the organizational culture, as requested within paragraph 4 of decision 2024/5;

8. *Welcomes* the proposed approach and workplan for organizational culture transformation at UNOPS, rooted in the values of the United Nations;

9. *Recalls* its decision 2024/5, paragraph 5, to report progress and challenges in implementing the workplan through the continued monthly briefings on the comprehensive response plan until the first regular session 2025 and as part of the annual item on organizational culture during first regular sessions.

7 June 2024

2024/23

Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2024

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2024, it:

Item 1

Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda ([DP/2024/L.2](#)) and approved the workplan for the annual session 2024;

Adopted the report of the first regular session 2024 ([DP/2024/8](#));

Adopted the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2024;

Joint segment

Item 2

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

Adopted decision 2024/8 on the update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system;

Item 3**Internal audit and investigation**

Adopted decision 2024/9 on the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation activities in 2023, and management responses;

Item 4**Ethics**

Adopted decision 2024/10 on the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities in 2023, and management responses;

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

Adopted decision 2024/11 on the joint update on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;

Item 6**Field visits**

Took note of the report of the field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to Uruguay ([DP/FPA/OPS/2024/1](#));

Item 19**Third-party assessment on the governance and oversight functions of the Executive Boards**

Adopted decision 2024/12 on the assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions;

UNDP segment**Item 7****Midterm review of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Administrator for 2023**

Adopted decision 2024/13 on the midterm review of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Administrator for 2023;

Held an interactive discussion with the Administrator on the combined midterm review and the annual report;

Item 8**Financial, budgetary and administrative matters**

Adopted decision 2024/14 on the midterm review of the UNDP integrated resources plan and the integrated budget, 2022-2025;

Item 9**Gender equality at UNDP**

Took note of the annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2022-2025 ([DP/2024/15](#));

Item 10**UNDP evaluation**

Adopted decision 2024/15 on UNDP evaluation;

Item 11**UNDP country programmes and related matters**

Took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Liberia as approved by the UNDP Administrator ([DP/2024/21](#)); and approved the 18-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, the two-year extension of the country

programme for the Republic of the Congo, and the second six-month extension of the country programme for Rwanda ([DP/2024/21](#));

Item 12**United Nations Capital Development Fund**

Adopted decision 2024/16 on the midterm review of the United Nations Capital Development Fund Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and the report on results achieved by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in 2023;

Item 13**United Nations Volunteers programme**

Adopted decision 2024/17 on the United Nations Volunteers programme: annual report of the Administrator;

UNFPA segment**Item 14****Annual report of the Executive Director**

Adopted decision 2024/18 on UNFPA: Annual report of the Executive Director;

Held an interactive discussion with the Executive Director on the combined midterm review and annual report;

Item 15**UNFPA – Financial, budgetary and administrative matters**

Adopted decision 2024/19 on the midterm review of the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025;

Item 16**UNFPA evaluation**

Adopted decision 2024/20 on UNFPA evaluation;

Item 17**UNFPA country programmes and related matters**

Took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, as approved by the UNFPA Executive Director ([DP/FPA/2024/9](#)); and approved the second, six-month extension for Rwanda ([DP/FPA/2024/9](#));

UNOPS segment**Item 18****Annual report of the UNOPS Executive Director**

Adopted decision 2024/21 on the report on implementation of the restated UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;

Adopted decision 2024/22 on the comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews of UNOPS;

Held an interactive discussion with the Executive Director on the above topics and a thematic interactive dialogue on the topic of ending the cycle of climate-induced disasters through sustainable resilient and inclusive infrastructure.

7 June 2024

2024/24**Comprehensive review of the joint cost-recovery policy and its implementation***The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the comprehensive review of the joint cost-recovery policy ([DP/FPA/ICEF-UNW/2024/1](#));
2. *Acknowledges* the criticality of ensuring the recovery of all direct and indirect costs to programmes and projects;
3. *Resolves* that the comprehensive cost-recovery policy, as outlined in document DP/FPA/ICEF-UNW/2024/1, supersedes the previous cost-recovery policy;
4. *Approves* the cost-classification categories, and their definitions, as outlined in the policy, effective 1 January 2026, as follows:
 - (a) Development and humanitarian activities, with subcategories: (i) programmes; and (ii) development effectiveness activities;
 - (b) United Nations development coordination activities;
 - (c) Enabling functions, with subcategories: (i) management activities; (ii) independent oversight and assurance activities; and (iii) special-purpose activities;
5. *Approves* the cost-recovery policy, including the methodology and rates, as outlined in the policy;
6. *Recalls* decision 2020/12, paragraph 5, and requests UNDP and UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and UN-Women, to provide information requested therein, in a joint harmonized report, to be discussed under their structured funding dialogue agenda items at the second regular session each year;
7. *Further requests* UNDP and UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and UN-Women, to continue to present in a harmonized manner the calculations of the notional cost-recovery rates in their respective integrated budget documents;
8. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and UN-Women, to present a comprehensive review of the cost-recovery policy and its implementation for decision at the second regular session 2028, and further requests UNDP and UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and UN-Women, to organize a joint briefing in 2027 to present a joint timeline for the review and preliminary observations and findings from the implementation of the cost-recovery policy.

29 August 2024

2024/25**Assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions***The Executive Board*

1. *Recalls* its decision 2024/12, on the consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit ([JIU/REP/2023/7](#)), which requested the Bureau of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to provide, in consultation with the bureaux of the participating Boards, an update on the implementation of this decision at the second regular session 2024;
2. *Welcomes* the update provided by the Bureau at the second regular session 2024.

29 August 2024

2024/26

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

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the report on the structured funding dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan (DP/2024/26 and Corr.1) and its annexes, including progress made on entity-specific commitments of the funding compact;
2. *Notes* the importance of sufficient and predictable regular resources, and expresses concern about the continuing decline of regular resource contributions and the impact on the ability of UNDP to deliver the intended results of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, restore and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and maintain robust oversight and accountability systems;
3. *Recalls* the importance of funding predictability and multi-year contributions 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;
4. *Notes* the importance of flexible thematic funding to complement regular resources, which is critical for UNDP to accelerate programming to meet the Sustainable Development Goals;
5. *Welcomes* the new funding compact for United Nations support to the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls on UNDP and encourages Member States to fully implement their respective commitments in line with relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council;
6. *Encourages* UNDP to continue its engagement with Member States, through structured funding dialogues, on prioritizing contributions to regular resources, and shifting from highly earmarked to more predictable and flexible funding;
7. *Encourages* UNDP to continuously engage with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, foundations, civil society and individuals, to diversify its potential sources of funding, and to strengthen partnerships with international financial institutions;
8. *Recognizes* UNDP efforts to accelerate financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, including those realized through the Sustainable Finance Hub, and encourages UNDP to provide, within existing reporting, further details on results achieved through these efforts as well as their potential risks and opportunities;

With regard to the amendments to the Global Environment Facility Instrument:

9. *Takes note* of the Administrator's note concerning proposed amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility;
10. *Decides* to adopt the amendments to the instrument for the establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility, as approved by the Seventh Assembly of the Global Environment Facility held in Vancouver, Canada from 22 to-26 August 2023;
11. *Requests* the Administrator to transmit the present decision to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.

29 August 2024

2024/27

Report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue, 2023-2024*The Executive Board*

1. *Welcomes* the report on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue, 2023-2024 (DP/FPA/2024/11), including progress made on entity-specific commitments of the funding compact;
2. *Notes* the importance of sufficient and predictable regular (core) resources linked to intended and demonstrated results, as these are critical for UNFPA to deliver on the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, respond to various humanitarian crises and help realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. *Recalls* the importance of broadening the contributor base, and encourages UNFPA to engage with Member States to prioritize contributions to 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;
4. *Encourages* UNFPA to continue to engage with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, foundations, civil society and individuals, to diversify its potential sources of funding, and to strengthen partnerships with international financial institutions;
5. *Notes* the importance of flexible thematic and pooled funding as critical for UNFPA to be able to accelerate programming to meet the three transformative results and the Sustainable Development Goals;
6. *Welcomes* the new funding compact for United Nations support to the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls on UNFPA and encourages Member States to fully implement their respective commitments in line with relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council;
7. *Encourages* UNFPA to continue its engagement with Member States, through structured funding dialogues, on prioritizing contributions to regular resources and shifting from highly earmarked to more predictable and flexible funding;
8. *Recognizes* the UNFPA efforts to explore funding accelerator instruments, such as the Strategic Investment Facility and others, to achieve strategic plan outcomes and the three transformative results, and encourages UNFPA to provide further details on results achieved through these instruments and their potential risks within existing reporting.

29 August 2024

2024/28

Comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews of UNOPS*The Executive Board*

1. *Recognizes* the progress achieved by UNOPS in the implementation of the comprehensive response plan;
2. *Requests* that the annual report of the Ethics Office include information, under the section “Financial disclosure programme,” on the compliance of the members of the senior management team with the UNOPS policy on financial disclosure and conflict of interest statements;

3. *Requests* UNOPS to report to the Executive Board, by the first regular session of 2025, the full and complete results of the portfolio risk assessment completed in response to KPMG recommendations issued in 2022, and to organize during the first regular session of 2025 a closed briefing to share the unredacted results with the Board;

4. *Requests* UNOPS to share an update on the review of the Financial Regulations and Rules during the December 2024 monthly update briefing;

With regard to the terms of reference for the external third-party review of the implementation of the comprehensive response plan:

5. *Takes note* of the terms of reference as presented in document [DP/OPS/2024/10](#);

6. *Reaffirms* decision 2024/4, and reiterates that this review should constitute a comprehensive progress review of all elements of the comprehensive response plan, aimed at assessing the status of implementation of each recommendation and action taken, including whether the intended impact has been achieved and what more is required if actions to address recommendations are not completed to full satisfaction;

7. *Notes* the formal closure of the Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation (S3i) office as of 31 December 2023 and decides to include the closure process in the scope of the third-party review;

8. *Requests* the Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG) to proceed with the external third-party review, incorporating guidance from this decision;

9. *Requests* IAIG to submit the unredacted report of the external third-party review and present the conclusions to the Executive Board ahead of the annual session 2025;

With regard to the implementation strategy for the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme:

10. *Takes note* of the implementation strategy for the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme, as requested by the Executive Board in paragraph 6 of decision 2024/4;

11. *Encourages* UNOPS, including IAIG, to take appropriate measures to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity in the implementation of the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme;

12. *Recalls* decision 2024/4, paragraph 18, to not include the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme in the external third-party review of the comprehensive response plan;

13. *Requests* IAIG to commission an external formative evaluation of the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme to assess its business case, contribution to the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, outputs, outcomes, risk-management and budget, as well as progress to date, to be presented to the Executive Board for decision during the annual session 2025;

14. *Requests* IAIG to submit by mid-October 2024 the draft terms of reference for the formative evaluation of the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme, through the Bureau, to the Executive Board, for online consultation;

15. *Requests* UNOPS management to provide updates on the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme implementation, including written information on the enterprise resource planning selection process, at quarterly informal briefings, as well as an annual

written report on implementation at first regular sessions, until the programme's implementation is determined complete after a final external evaluation is endorsed by the Executive Board;

With regard to the approximate amount remaining of undisbursed funds and their alternative use:

16. *Takes note* of the update on the progress of the refund of excess reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021, and the estimated amount of excess reserves undisbursed by 31 December 2024, as requested by the Executive Board in paragraph 4 of decision 2024/6;

17. *Recalls* document [DP/OPS/2024/3](#) in which five options on the alternative use of undisbursed funds were presented for consideration;

18. *Further recalls* its decision 2024/6 that extended the deadline for the distribution of all excess reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021 until 31 December 2024, and in which the Board agreed to decide on the use of undisbursed excess reserves at the second regular session;

19. *Acknowledges* that UNOPS has sought legal advice from the Office of the Legal Counsel on excess reserves as of 31 December 2021 allocated to two paying entities, per Executive Board decision 2023/4, and requests UNOPS to share any advice received from the Office of the Legal Counsel on these reserves with the Board in writing by the end of September 2024;

20. *Further requests* UNOPS to continue to hold beyond 31 December 2024, only the undisbursed excess reserves allocated to these two paying entities;

21. *Decides* to resolve the issue of the undisbursed excess reserves allocated to these two paying entities at the first regular session 2025;

22. *Further decides* to transfer all remaining excess reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021 and not disbursed by 31 December 2024, as unearmarked, equal contributions to the Joint SDG Fund and the Special-Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System and the Development Coordination Office;

23. *Requests* UNOPS to provide an update on undisbursed excess reserves as of 31 December 2024 and excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021 in an informal briefing ahead of the first regular session 2025, and to also invite the United Nations Board of Auditors to participate.

29 August 2024

2024/29

Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2023

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual statistical report on United Nations procurement, 2023 ([DP/OPS/2024/9](#));

2. *Welcomes* the data and analysis contained therein;

3. *Acknowledges* the 2023 report, which marks the fortieth edition of United Nations procurement reporting, and underscores the importance of transparency and openness in procurement practices for building trust with partners and the public, and encourages

UNOPS, in collaboration with other United Nations entities, to continually improve transparency and reporting on procurement operations and their outcomes, emphasizing the impact of procurement on sustainable development;

4. *Encourages* UNOPS to further explore opportunities of collaborative procurement with other United Nations entities.

29 August 2024

2024/30

Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2024

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its second regular session 2024, it:

Item 1

Organizational matters

Adopted the agenda (DP/2024/L.3) and approved the workplan for the second regular session 2024 (DP/2024/L.3);

Adopted the report of the annual session 2024 (DP/2024/24);

Adopted the tentative workplan for the first regular session 2025;

Joint segment

Item 2

Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2024/24 on the comprehensive review of the joint cost-recovery policy and its implementation;

Item 9

Update on the assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions

Adopted decision 2024/25 on the assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions;

UNDP segment

Item 3

Structured funding dialogue

Adopted decision 2024/26 on the structured funding dialogue on financing the results of the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;

Item 4

UNDP country programmes and related matters

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DP/DCP/COD/4);

Djibouti (DP/DCP/DJI/4);

Namibia (DP/DCP/NAM/4);

Sierra Leone (DP/DCP/SLE/5);

Ukraine (DP/DCP/UKR/4);

Took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Yemen (DP/2024/28) as approved by the UNDP Administrator; and approved the third one-year extension of the country programme for Myanmar (DP/2024/28);

UNFPA segment

Item 5

UNFPA structured funding dialogue

Adopted decision 2024/27 on the UNFPA structured funding dialogue;

Item 6

UNFPA country programmes and related matters

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo ([DP/FPA/CPD/COD/6](#));

Djibouti ([DP/FPA/CPD/DJI/6](#));

Namibia ([DP/FPA/CPD/NAM/7](#));

Sierra Leone ([DP/FPA/CPD/SLE/8](#));

Ukraine ([DP/FPA/CPD/UKR/4](#));

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Cuba, Liberia, Mexico and Yemen, as approved by the UNFPA Executive Director ([DP/FPA/2024/12](#)); and approved the first, two-year extension of the country programme for the Republic of the Congo; the third one-year extension of the country programme for Myanmar; and the fourth one-year extension of the country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([DP/FPA/2024/12](#));

UNOPS segment

Item 7

Statement by the UNOPS Executive Director

Adopted decision 2024/28 on the comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews of UNOPS;

Adopted decision 2024/29 on the annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations, 2023.
