



# Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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## Annual session of 2017

27 and 28 June 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

### Organizational matters

## Report on the election of the Bureau and on the first regular session, 16 January and 14 February 2017

### I. Election of the Bureau

1. On 16 January 2017, the Executive Board elected the Bureau of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for 2017. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, H.E. Ms. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh (representing the Asia-Pacific Group), was elected as President of the Executive Board for the year 2017. The Vice-Presidents were elected from the following regional groups: (a) African Group: Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations, Gail Farngalo; (b) Eastern European Group: Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations, Ivana Pajevic; (c) Latin American and Caribbean Group: First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the United Nations, Shiraz Arif Mohamed; and (d) Western European and Others Group: Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, Nicolas Randin.

2. The outgoing President, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari (Tunisia), congratulated the incoming President and thanked the Executive Board, especially the outgoing Vice-Presidents who had served during his tenure.

### II. Organizational matters

3. The first regular session of 2017 of the Executive Board was held at United Nations Headquarters on 14 February 2017.

4. The Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session of 2017 ([UNW/2017/L.1](#)) in addition to the annual workplan for 2017 ([UNW/2017/L.2](#)). The Board approved the provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2017, to be held on 27 and 28 June 2017 (see Annex I) and also adopted the report on its second regular session of 2016, held on



1 and 2 September 2016 ([UNW/2016/10](#)). The Board adopted decision 2017/1 on the elaboration of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021 (see Annex II).

### III. Opening statements

5. The Vice-President of the Executive Board declared the session open and gave the floor to the Secretary of the Executive Board who delivered a message on behalf of the President of the Executive Board. He conveyed the President's disappointment in not being able to attend the first regular session of the Executive Board due to her return to the United Arab Emirates in anticipation of a visit from Secretary General H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres.

6. The Vice-President made an introductory statement emphasizing what an honour it is for her country and herself to be Vice-President of the UN-Women Executive Board in 2017. She declared that the realization of the rights of women and girls is fundamental for achieving universal respect for human rights, securing long-lasting peace, and ensuring sustainable development. She underscored that combating extreme poverty and the struggle for development and peace were paramount to the empowerment of women.

7. The Vice-President noted that the 2030 Agenda provided an opportunity to place gender equality and women's empowerment at the centre of the international development agenda and that it was the Executive Board's joint commitment to champion this agenda around the world. She emphasized the importance of working together as this year the Executive Board will adopt the new Strategic Plan 2018-2021 for UN-Women, which represents UN-Women's contribution to the 2030 Agenda over the next four years and serves as the framework for the next biennial budget. The Vice-President also thanked those who attended the informal workshop on the Strategic Plan a day prior and noted that the discussion on the Strategic Plan would continue today with a presentation on its linkages to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

8. The Vice-President concluded her opening statement by urging the Executive Board to take today's discussions on gender equality and to translate these collective commitments into action by investing in women and in hope for the future of humanity.

9. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women in her opening statement thanked the outgoing President and Bureau, as well as welcomed the newly elected President, Bureau, and members of the Board. She praised the newly elected President as a strong champion for gender equality and the work of UN-Women. She introduced the team of Regional Directors, who were present at the session for the first time in the Executive Board's history and had attended the prior day's informal workshop on the Strategic Plan. She thanked everyone for their participation in the prior day's informal workshop.

10. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director stressed the significance of preparing the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 through a collaborative, transparent, and accelerated process in line with the QCPR's call for greater coherence and collaboration across agencies. The Head of the Entity reiterated the priority of working with counterparts in the UN system, including UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and UNICEF, to draw upon each other's strategic plans and the importance of this coordination and collaboration to UN-Women. She noted three aspects that distinguished the new Strategic Plan from its predecessor. First, the new Plan is

strongly aligned with the 2030 Agenda; it builds on lessons learned in the last two decades, and sets forth the Entity's contribution to implementation of the Agenda. Second, the Plan clearly identifies UN-Women's added value and articulates the difference that the Entity has on women's and girls' lives, particularly, those at risk of being left behind. Third, the Plan capitalizes on the Entity's triple mandate of normative support, UN coordination, and operational activities.

11. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director stated that UN-Women is determined to strengthen the linkages between results and resources through a more streamlined results framework linked to realistic resource level estimates. She underscored the Member States' role in providing timely support and assistance for determining realistic resource level estimation in order to ensure a reasonable degree of predictability.

12. She reiterated the need to reassess UN-Women's position and funding architecture within the UN system. She stated that UN-Women has made a request to the General Assembly's Fifth Committee and asked for the support of the Permanent Missions in addressing the current financial shortcomings faced by UN-Women. She highlighted that the Entity currently receives only approximately 7 million dollars a year from the Regular Budget of the UN (a total of 2 per cent of the Entity's total funding) while, in contrast, a very worthy agency with a similar combined mandate receives approximately 40 per cent of its funding from the Regular Budget of the UN — 20 times that of UN-Women. She expressed her gratitude to Member States that had increased and maintained their high core contribution levels, including Germany (doubled), the Netherlands (almost doubled), Japan (increased by 25 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (increased significantly), Sweden (increased significantly), Denmark (raised), the United States (raised), Finland (maintained), Switzerland (maintained), and the United Kingdom (maintained). She indicated that Luxembourg and Norway have made early core contributions and encouraged all Member States to follow suit.

13. She noted that, despite total provisional core income for 2016 only rising by approximately 4 million dollars as gains were offset by exchange rate losses, UN-Women continues to put its resources to good use. She cited on-going humanitarian programming in 32 countries to help rebuild the livelihood of women and families, particularly assisting vulnerable women. In line with QCPR expectations, she recalled that UN-Women launched the first-ever joint UN Framework for Preventing Violence against Women in 2015 to establish a common approach within the UN System and for policymakers and other stakeholders. She also cited UN-Women's lead in the coordination effort in 5 out of 9 pilot countries in the Asia-Pacific to reinforce UN-Women's path to perfecting agency coordination and delivery as one.

14. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director emphasized the new objective to concentrate on evidence of gender-focused action in the field through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework's (UNDAF) strengthening of the quality and coherence of country-level programming and through implementation of the second UN-SWAP.

15. She indicated that there is a window for better coordination and the repositioning of UN-Women under the leadership of the new Secretary General, who has expressed strong support for gender equality and women's empowerment. She stated that the Secretary General's efforts to achieve gender parity in senior levels of staffing in the UN mirror UN-Women's initiatives under HeForShe. The Head of the Entity emphasized the high value of UN-Women's seat on the Secretary General's

Executive Committee as a means of integrating the gender perspective in the highest-level of decision-making across the three pillars of the United Nations.

16. She emphasized the importance of UN-Women's coordination role in light of growing momentum and the need to protect gains across the world. She stated that many countries' women are reconfirming the correctness of the choices made in the 2030 Agenda and are calling for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; full and effective participation and equal opportunities for women's leadership in work and in politics; the end of all forms of discrimination; and the end of violence against women, and to hold perpetrators accountable. She encouraged embracing these calls and supporting the shared aim for a global community through the 2030 Agenda and through other global compacts also relevant to gender equality, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, and the New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees as well as the Beijing +20 Review.

17. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director concluded her opening statement by asking the Executive Board to continue to uphold the cause of gender equality and women's empowerment as they proceed with other business as representatives of their country, and in preparation for the following month's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) with a priority theme of "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work," which is critical for our future, for economic justice and for making sure that the world we live in leaves no one behind.

## **IV. Evaluation**

### **A. Corporate evaluation of UN-Women's Regional Architecture and its related management response**

18. The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) Director led the presentation on the corporate evaluation of UN-Women's Regional Architecture, which assessed the design, planning, and implementation of the Regional Architecture from its 2012 launch through its first quarter of 2016. The IEO Director presented highlights from the ten (10) conclusions and four (4) recommendations of the evaluation.

19. He highlighted the following 10 conclusions:

(a) UN-Women's relevance and ability to respond to stakeholder needs under the Regional Architecture significantly increased at all levels with some limitations by different office types;

(b) UN-Women's effectiveness increased since the Regional Architecture was introduced, and in accordance with the Executive Board paper's guidance; however, he noted two exceptions: (i) Headquarters' structure had not been adequately adjusted to support regions and countries, and (ii) the prescribed robust Knowledge Management platform and internal communication functions had not been adequately developed;

(c) the Regional Architecture has increased UN-Women's overall ability to implement the integrated mandate in the field with some challenges faced by programme presence countries regarding implementation on the normative and coordination aspect of the mandate;

(d) UN-Women continues to focus on Results-based Management but gaps remained in information availability due to flaws in systems and processes for monitoring and reporting;

(e) the Regional Architecture has increased UN-Women's overall ability to focus on and its capacity to apply rigorous gender analysis and human rights while at the same time leading to challenges for UN-Women's pathways to reach and support the most vulnerable women;

(f) the Regional Architecture was efficient overall and the different levels supported each other well, with some limitations;

(g) increased flexibility with regards to transitions from one type of office to another would allow greater efficiency for a given level of funding;

(h) UN-Women has made progress in some administrative and management systems in terms of efficiency, and yet, there still remain significant inefficiencies in several systems, which UN-Women is studying and improving rapidly;

(i) UN-Women faces challenges from a Regional Architecture standpoint due to budget availability assumptions that have not yet materialized; and

(j) UN-Women's staff competencies and culture have important strengths that may help position UN-Women well to implement its integrated mandate and deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

20. The IEO Director stated that, based on the above conclusions, the evaluation's four recommendations to UN-Women were as follows:

(a) building greater flexibility into the Regional Architecture;

(b) strengthening Headquarters' integration within the Regional Architecture framework;

(c) making specific adjustments to each level in the Regional Architecture, and

(d) developing and strengthening Knowledge Management for sharing and learning opportunities.

21. The IEO Director concluded by reiterating that UN-Women management has taken the corporate evaluation under serious consideration and that he expects the evaluation to be an object of positive change.

22. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme led the presentation of the "Management Response to the Evaluation of the Regional Architecture of UN-Women." The Deputy Executive Director expressed appreciation for the comprehensive and insightful evaluation of UN-Women's Regional Architecture. In summary, this evaluation was completed pursuant to decision 2012/4 of the Executive Board as part of its request to conduct an in-depth Regional Architecture evaluation at an early stage. The Deputy Executive Director commented that the evaluation was timely, coming in ahead of the process of developing the new Strategic Plan 2018-2021, the QCPR, and a new UN agenda with the new Secretary General.

23. He opined that the evaluation indicates that UN-Women has much to be proud of and reiterated the evaluation's finding that UN-Women's ability to respond to stakeholder needs has significantly increased since 2012 at the global, regional, and country levels. UN-Women senior management fully endorse and agree with the 10 conclusions and 4 recommendations made under the evaluation on the Regional Architecture to address inefficiencies resulting from rapid build up and funding constraints.

24. The Deputy Executive Director provided the following responses to the 4 recommendations of the evaluation:

(a) UN-Women is developing a set of objective criteria to guide the decision-making process and to inform considerations for type of country presence;

(b) UN-Women is working to align the programme functions of Headquarters, Regional Offices, and Country Offices by April 2017 and to update the 2012 functional analysis by the 4th Quarter of 2017;

(c) UN-Women is working to determine how services can be further focused to remain in line with the current resources of the Entity; and

(d) UN-Women is working to develop a Strategic Plan for becoming a more efficient Knowledge Management organization.

25. The Deputy Executive Director reported that UN-Women had prepared a paper to be distributed in April that outlines a strategy to improve internal communication as recommended by the evaluation. He concluded by thanking the Independent Evaluation Office for a high quality evaluation.

26. In response to the opening statements and presentations on the evaluation, several delegations congratulated the newly elected President and Bureau of the UN-Women Executive Board. They commended the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women on the Entity's achievements and emphasized their countries' own ongoing commitment to the work of the Entity. Delegations also welcomed the gender equality initiatives advanced by the new Secretary General.

27. Several Member States conveyed appreciation for the informal workshop on the development of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 held the day prior to the first regular session of the Executive Board. A number of Member States reaffirmed their support of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 of UN-Women. Many commended the incorporation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Beijing+20 review, QCPR, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into a draft Strategic Plan. One speaker urged UN-Women to consider the incorporation of the 2016 midterm review into the Strategic Plan. Another speaker expressed concern over linking all UN-Women activities to the 2030 Agenda and reiterated that the key document in implementing the Entity's mandates is the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Delegate requested that UN-Women focus its contribution on supporting the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and not on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

28. Member States expressed concern about UN-Women's lack of funding and encouraged efficient use of the limited resources that the Entity possesses. Many delegates encouraged reconsideration of the current financing structure and suggested increasing the regular budget, seeking contributions from non-traditional sources such as the private sector, and utilizing the scarce resources to focus on the Entity's normative and coordination aspects rather than the operational. Member States announcing increases in their financial support to the Entity included Sweden.

29. The overall reaction to the corporate evaluation of the Regional Architecture and the management response was positive. Many delegations thanked the IEO for the thorough evaluation and constructive feedback regarding UN-Women's Regional Architecture. Several delegations urged UN-Women to evaluate and improve the Regional Architecture based on the recommendations and to incorporate flexibility into the Entity's architecture.

30. A number of Member States expressed concern over the vulnerabilities and disparate impacts of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls in small countries. UN-Women was encouraged to expand gender statistics and seek disaggregated data by sex and age to crucially monitor, assess, and analyse the progress of gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. One speaker urged UN-Women to consider how to best serve constituents in smaller states and to include considerations for women's inherent vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change in the Strategic Plan.

31. One speaker requested that UN-Women work diligently to meet the 2017 deadline of UN-SWAP. The speaker encouraged UN-Women to take into serious consideration the IEO's recommendations and for UN-Women management to implement the management response swiftly.

32. Another speaker recommended that UN-Women strengthen Headquarters/field presence and requested that efforts be made to strengthen policy guidance and personal exchange with field presence to ensure better coordination between them.

33. A Delegate delivered a joint statement on the Regional Architecture and its related management response on behalf of their delegation as well as 15 other countries. These Member States endorsed the four recommendations of the evaluation and requested that UN-Women follow up on the measures specified in the management response. Additionally, the Member States in question specifically requested that UN-Women:

- (a) review the integrated mandate at country level with clear priorities, based on each country's demands, budget availability, the comparative advantage of UN-Women, and existing leverage and partnerships within the country context;

- (b) review the scale of its country presence to ensure focus, and optimal distribution of capacity and support, while taking into full account the existing capacity and coverage of the gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEWE) mandate from other UN partners;

- (c) clarify the respective role and reporting lines between Headquarters, Regional, and the Country level;

- (d) better align the Entity functions with the existing capacities and financial realities;

- (e) improve knowledge sharing and internal capacity building in prioritized areas of work;

- (f) examine more critically which parts of the mandate need to be supported in a country with a targeted approach (based upon the evaluation's finding that "UN-Women might interpret the integrated mandate as one that should be implemented globally, but does not need to be implemented evenly in every country, thus allowing flexibility to focus on different aspects of the mandate in different countries");

(g) outline how the Entity will work to share the findings of this evaluation across the UN Development System, and share thoughts on how to overcome this challenge;

(h) provide a comprehensive depiction, including staffing, for the elaboration of the next Strategic Plan and integrated budget;

(i) advise as to how they will address the constraints faced by programme presence offices in the context of existing UN presence and capacities;

(j) balance the needs of the regional presence with UN-Women Headquarters' critical normative, coordinating, and standard-raising work across all UN agencies.

The Speaker concluded by indicating that this group of countries looks forward to seeing these considerations being included into the formulation of the next strategic plan and the integrated budget.

34. Another Delegate delivered a joint statement on the Strategic Plan on behalf of 14 countries. The speaker thanked UN-Women for a productive, interesting, and substantial workshop on the Strategic Plan, which took place the day prior to the first regular session. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Entity on the planning documents that will establish the strategic priorities and frameworks to monitor, evaluate, and report on the impact of the Funds and Programmes in a meaningful way. Additionally, the Member States in question specifically requested that UN-Women:

(a) inform the Member States of the work and the outcome of the joint working group established by the four Entities. Funds and Programmes (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women) to ensure a coordinated approach in terms of process, structure and complementarity of the four strategic plans;

(b) review and align the four organizations' strategic plan deadlines;

(c) present the strategic options and an advance outline of the strategic plan at least 10 days before the consultations;

(d) include a specific chapter in each of the strategic plans, explaining the overall approach of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and clarifying the specific contribution of each organization to the overall contribution of UNDG towards realizing the 2030 Agenda;

(e) take steps towards further harmonization of the structure of the results frameworks;

(f) request that the Entities, Funds and Programmes collect and report data disaggregated by the groups outlined in the 2030 Agenda, including gender and disability, and ensure that a sound gender analysis informs all programming decisions and processes;

(g) input the following recommendations into the Strategic Plan: (i) QCPR mandates regarding the division of labour within the UNDG as well as the preparation and content of the strategic plans and (ii) a specific request that the Secretary General presents a system-wide outline and a comprehensive governance report defining clear and accountable roles across the system by June 2017; and

(h) incorporate lessons from the mid-term reviews of the previous strategic plans into the new Strategic Plan.

The speaker concluded by congratulating UN-Women on its achievements in 2016, and stated that these delegations look forward to productive discussions on these important issues during the 2017 Executive Board sessions.



## **B. Oral update on the implementation of the cost recovery policy**

35. The Director of the Division of Management and Administration and the Chief of Budget led the presentation on the “Oral update on the implementation of the cost recovery policy.” The Director reiterated the increasing importance of the issue of cost recovery to UN-Women as the Entity’s share of non-core resources rises. He opined that the most pressing challenge with regard to cost recovery was the implementation, application, and enforcement of cost recovery policies such as charging for direct costs. Some of the key observations and conclusions provided by the Chief of Budget included:

- (a) the cost recovery rate of 8 per cent is adequate for the recovery of costs proportionately from core and non-core resources;
- (b) the effective rate of 7 per cent takes into account umbrella agreements as well as legacy agreements, which are declining over time;
- (c) the financial impact of waivers is immaterial since the number of waivers is small and decreasing; and
- (d) regular policy guidance has been provided and continues to be provided to offices. However, charging of direct costs remains challenging, causing cross-subsidization.

She concluded her presentation by stating that UN-Women will work with the Funds and Programmes to develop a roadmap and continue to engage with the Executive Board.

36. In response to the oral update on the implementation of the cost recovery policy, one speaker requested that UN-Women elaborate on (i) the appropriateness of the 8 per cent recovery rate, (ii) UN-Women’s response to partners not willing to accept the 8 per cent cost recovery rate, and (iii) the next steps for the Executive Board. In response, the Chief of Budget stated that the 8 per cent recovery rate was indeed appropriate since an independent assessment had concluded such and that the next steps would be further discussion at the informal consultation in April at which time actuals will be presented and further discussion of the appropriateness of the 8 per cent rate and the framework can be discussed. The Director and the Chief of Budget both stressed the importance of working in a coordinated fashion and aiming for greater harmonization with all partners.

## **V. Briefings**

### **A. Informal briefing by the UN Trust Fund to end violence against women**

37. The Director of the UN-Women Programme Division, in collaboration with representatives from the United Kingdom and Switzerland, and the representative from the UN Trust Fund Programme Advisory Committee, who shared their experiences as partners, gave a presentation on “Building the evidence base through strategic investment in civil society initiatives to end violence against women and girls.” Some of the points highlighted included the following:

- (a) grassroots organizations are essential to receiving services and to being able to provide them to civil society;

(b) eliminating violence against women is a national and international priority and should be met with serious consideration;

(c) addressing gender-based violence should occur through sexual and reproductive health programmes since health services are often the first point of contact for women post-sexual violence and are a crucial moment to reach women and girls; and

(d) long-term gender-based violence intervention is needed in the humanitarian context, particularly in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations.

38. In response to the informal briefing, several delegations thanked the panel for the presentation. One speaker emphasized the importance of cooperation amongst UN Funds, Programmes and Entities. Another speaker suggested the incorporation of youth participation in conducting research for educational institutions on gender-based violence.

## **B. Update on humanitarian programming**

39. The Humanitarian Coordinator and Deputy Director of Programme Division gave a presentation on UN-Women's Humanitarian Programming. The Deputy Director highlighted that UN-Women's work in humanitarian action is soundly based on the founding resolution 65/289 and is in the line of the triple mandate of UN-Women. The primary issue of UN-Women's work in humanitarian contexts is the extent of the violation of rights and the urgent needs of women and girls. Women are more likely to be impacted by natural disasters and armed conflict. He reiterated that it was imperative for UN-Women to respond to these humanitarian concerns as part of its mandate. He informed the Executive Board that UN-Women's added value could be utilized to address the following key issues:

(a) Improvement of the quality of humanitarian assessment tools and strategic response plans to incorporate a proper gender analysis;

(b) Greater levels of dedicated funding to women's groups or ministries; and

(c) Improvement in the limited available meaningful opportunities for leadership and empowerment of women in crisis management.

40. The Deputy Director described UN-Women's Flagship Programmes, including Gender Inequality of Risk (GIR) and Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP), which were intended to build the resilience of women and girls at risk of the impacts of humanitarian crises and armed conflict. He also recounted UN-Women's many accomplishments and achievements in various countries in crisis including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nepal, Jordan, and Haiti. Lastly, he thanked the governments of Sweden and Japan for their contributions, which allowed for the tremendous growth of humanitarian work to 32 countries from 2013 to 2016.

41. In response to the presentation on humanitarian programming, several Member States thanked the Entity for the work it has done in the humanitarian sector and advancing protections for women and girls. The Delegation of Japan announced an increase in their financial support to the LEAP programme. One speaker encouraged UN-Women to make further efforts to work with other UN Entities, Funds and Programmes in the humanitarian area – complementing rather than duplicating their work. Another speaker expressed concern about what UN-Women could do to protect humanitarian workers from sexual harassment and violence.

42. In response to the Member States' commentary, the Deputy Director thanked Japan for their financial contribution. He also acknowledged and agreed with the comment regarding improved coordination with other UN Entities, Funds and Programmes. He noted and agreed with the Member State's call for action to address sexual harassment and violence against humanitarian workers.

### **C. Update on the alignment of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 with the QCPR**

43. The Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women presented an update on the Alignment of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 with the QCPR. She thanked the delegations for their participation in the informal workshop and expressed appreciation for the high level of attendance and interest in the development of the new Strategic Plan for 2018-2021. She reiterated UN-Women's commitment to an inclusive and participatory process and thanked the delegations for their guidance, comments, and informal feedback.

44. The Deputy Executive Director affirmed UN-Women's commitment to incorporating the Evaluation Office's recommendations, the lessons from the 2016 midterm review, and other assessments by Member States in the new Strategic Plan. She also emphasized the importance of aligning the Strategic Plan with global normative frameworks, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action, the historic "gender equality compact" of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a number of sectoral agreements.

45. She stated that UN-Women was encouraged by the delegations' support to continue to coordinate with other UN Entities, Funds and Programmes and asked the Executive Board to also prioritize gender equality and the empowerment of women in their interactions with other Executive Boards of other UN entities. She noted that this would be the basis for a request to the Secretary-General to develop a system-wide outline of present functions and provide recommendations to address gaps and overlaps.

46. The Deputy Executive Director discussed the role of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emphasized the importance of achieving SDG 5 but also implementing the entire agenda in a gender-responsive manner. She underscored the QCPR's emphasis on the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment as intrinsic and instrumental to sustainable development in its three dimensions (economic, social, and environmental) and to the eradication of poverty. She indicated that, as called for in the QCPR, UN-Women would continue to promote the coordination, coherence, and accountability of the UN System, including through the UN-SWAP and UN-SWAP 2.0. In line with comments made by delegations previously, she also indicated that the QCPR reaffirmed that the universal and inclusive nature of the 2030 Agenda is fundamental to ensuring that no one is left behind and that no country is left behind, including Small Island States, Developing States, and others countries in vulnerable situations. She stressed the importance of intersectionality to address issues of disability, indigenous women, race, and poverty to leave no one behind and reach the farthest first.

47. She noted that UN-Women would scale up its work on capacity building for gender statistics which will enable monitoring of the progress of gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as contribute to meeting the QCPR's emphasis on comprehensive and effective monitoring and reporting. She also declared

that the new results framework would integrate SDG indicators that are relevant to UN-Women's work and to measuring progress of gender equality in coordination with other UN Entities, Funds and Programmes.

48. Lastly, she addressed the matter of funding and called upon the support of the Executive Board in being champions for a sustainable funding approach.

49. In response to the presentation on the alignment of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 with the QCPR, many Member States thanked the Deputy Executive Director for her comprehensive presentation. Several Member States echoed the Deputy Executive Director's prioritization of intersectionality and ensuring that no one is left behind. One speaker expressed the hope that the Strategic Plan will state that its key document is the Beijing Platform and will not use the 2030 Agenda as a basis for its evaluation. Another Member State requested that UN-Women continue further discussions on the importance and role of national capacity building for the Strategic Plan.

50. In response to the delegates' commentary, the Deputy Executive Director thanked the delegates and reassured them that the comments and suggestions highlighted by Member States would be taken into consideration and incorporated. The Director of the Programme Division emphasized UN-Women's commitment to strengthening and developing internal capacity through trainings and the engagement of civil society. The Deputy Executive Director concluded by highlighting that UN-Women has spared no efforts to broaden the donor base through individual public giving and crowdfunding but that reliance on governments will necessarily have to continue. In that regard, she urged Member States to weigh this consideration heavily.

#### **D. Briefing on the operational response of UN-Women at the country level: Moldova**

51. The UN-Women Country Office head and Country Representative for Moldova led the presentation on the "Operational response of UN-Women at the country level: Moldova." The Country Representative highlighted the key priorities in Moldova as: (i) increasing leadership and political participation, (ii) achieving economic empowerment, and (iii) preventing violence against women and providing access to essential services for survivors of violence. Moldova's achievements include: (i) adoption of a 40 per cent gender quota and the election of two Roma women as local councillors for the first time, (ii) a strategy to empower women and girls in and through education and information and communications technology, and (iii) new amendments to legislation to end violence against women. Through the successes achieved in each of these sectors, she noted an evolution of UN-Women's role from "working for women and gender equality" to "facilitating women as the key agents of change" and embracing innovation in country level approaches. She also thanked Sweden for their strategic and longstanding support, which will allow their work to be funded for the coming five years.

52. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova reiterated his appreciation of the initiatives advanced in Moldova in collaboration between the Government and UN-Women. He recognized and welcomed the extensive work that UN-Women is undertaking in Moldova and its inclusion of civil society and the private sector in its initiatives. He articulated concern about the challenges faced by migrant workers and the role of the media in shaping cultural and social norms affecting women. Overall, he emphasized the satisfaction of the government and the donors with UN-Women's quality of programming and genuine concern about social and women's issues. The Delegate from Sweden expressed satisfaction with the way

the country's financial support had been used and expressed support for UN-Women's mission to work with local entities.

## **VI. Closing of the session**

53. In closing, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director expressed her gratitude to the Member States who publicly declared their pledges to increase contributions to UN-Women. She also appreciated all the presenters including the joint statements on behalf of 16 countries.

54. She reminded Member States to make every effort to ensure that their delegation was represented at the highest possible level and inclusive of civil society and youth, at the upcoming sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She concluded by thanking the Executive Board for its continued close cooperation, following which the session was adjourned.

## Annex I

### Proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session

#### Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters
2. Annual Report of the Executive Director
3. Evaluation
4. Audit matters
5. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters
6. Other matters

#### Provisional workplan

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Tuesday, 27 June 2017	10 a.m.- 1 p.m.		Opening of the session
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women</li> </ul>
		1	Organizational matters
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2017</li> <li>• Adoption of the report on the first regular session of 2017</li> </ul>
		2	Annual Report of the Executive Director
	3 p.m.- 6 p.m.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 2014-2017</li> <li>• Draft update of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021</li> </ul>
			<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
		2	Annual Report of the Executive Director ( <i>continued</i> )
Wednesday , 28 June 2017	10 a.m.- 1 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
		3	Evaluation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the evaluation function, 2016</li> <li>• Corporate evaluation of UN-Women's strategic partnerships on gender equality and the empowerment of women and its related management response</li> </ul>

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
		4	Audit matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the internal audit and investigation activities for the period 1 January to 31 December 2016</li> <li>• Report of the Audit Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Management responses</li> <li>• Management response to JIU reports</li> </ul>
		5	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft integrated budget 2018-2019</li> </ul> <i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
	3 p.m.- 6 p.m.		Briefing on the operational response of UN-Women at the country level: Somalia
		6	Other matters <i>Adoption of draft decisions</i>
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of the provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2017</li> </ul> Closing of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statements by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women and the President of the Executive Board</li> </ul>

## **Annex II**

### **Decisions adopted at the first regular session 2017**

#### **Decision 2017/1 - Elaboration of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018-2021**

*The Executive Board,*

1. Takes note with appreciation of the preparatory work done and the various informal briefings and workshops with the Executive Board on the process of elaboration of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;
  2. Requests UN-Women to continue engaging constructively with UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to ensure a coherent approach of the four strategic plans (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women);
  3. Also requests, in line with 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, to elaborate in its strategic plan on how it plans to engage in coherent and integrated support, as called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard, further requests UN-Women to work collaboratively with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF on the development of a specific chapter in its strategic plan, outlining a common approach in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with their respective mandates;
  4. Encourages UN-Women to collaborate with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF to continue to harmonize their approaches to results reporting on their strategic plans, which, inter alia, would identify their contributions to outcomes achieved collectively;
  5. Requests UN-Women to provide all relevant documents at least 10 days prior to any informal meetings in relation to the preparation of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018-2021.
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