



**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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5 to 9 June 2023, New York

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

**Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular
session 2023**

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**First regular session 2023
(30 January to 3 February 2023)**

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2023/1

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

The Executive Board

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

With regard to UNDP:

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

With regard to UNFPA:

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

With regard to UNOPS:

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

3 February 2023

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

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

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

3 February 2023

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

1. *Recalls* its decision 2022/13 on the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) reserve;
2. *Welcomes* the report of the working group formed in response to decision 2022/13 (DP/OPS/2023/2) and expresses appreciation to the members of the working group for their timely and detailed report;
3. *Takes note* of the reactions of the working group in response to the KPMG recommendations contained in the report and reiterates its decision 2022/24 on the two KPMG third-party reviews;
4. *Recalls* decisions 2022/13 and 2022/24 and welcomes the cooperation between the working group and UNOPS management;
5. *Reaffirms* decision 2022/24, paragraph 11, on the need for further consideration by the Executive Board of the recommendations from the KPMG third-party reviews on UNOPS governance structure, addressed to the Executive Board;
6. *Decides* to dissolve the working group, established by the Executive Board in its decision 2022/13, paragraph 10.

3 February 2023

2023/4**UNOPS update on the implementation of the comprehensive response plan, use of reserve and impact investments in UNOPS***The Executive Board**With regard to restating the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and road map for the midterm review+ process*

1. Takes note of the information note DP/OPS/2023/CRP. 2, the framework for restating the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including a road map for the midterm review+ process;
2. Requests that UNOPS proceed with preparations for a midterm review+ and restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, in accordance with its proposal as contained in the information note;

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

3. Takes note of the information note DP/OPS/2023/CRP.1 on UNOPS role in blended and impact financing, as requested in decision 2022/24;
4. Requests that UNOPS organize an informal briefing in hybrid format, before the informal consultation with the Executive Board on the midterm review+ process, at the latest by the end of February 2023, to provide further information on existing elements of innovative, blended and impact finance in UNOPS portfolio based on the multifaceted portfolio analysis, and on the current organizational capacity;
5. Welcomes UNOPS implementation of Board decision 2022/24 to disengage from any direct impact investment finance and underlines the need to refocus on UNOPS original mandate, providing technical expertise in infrastructure, procurement and project management;
6. Reaffirms and emphasizes that UNOPS does not have a programmatic mandate and is a demand-driven United Nations entity providing infrastructure, procurement and project management services as its original mandate;
7. Discourages UNOPS from initiating any new initiative in the area of innovative, blended or impact financing pending the approval of the restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025;
8. Requests that UNOPS management implement all outstanding S3i-related recommendations and actions contained in the comprehensive response plan without delay and work towards completely phasing out the S3i initiative;

With regard to the comprehensive response plan:

9. Welcomes the comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two KPMG independent third-party reviews as presented in a publicly accessible online monitoring platform, in line with decision 2022/24;
10. Further requests that UNOPS update its comprehensive response plan elaborating on the prioritization, timelines of implementation, and costing of all outstanding action items, and reflect this in the online monitoring tool, and inform the Executive Board when this has been completed in the monthly update briefings;
11. Recalls decision 2022/24 to provide monthly briefings on the status of the implementation of Executive Board decisions and the recommendations of the KPMG reviews to the Executive Board until the annual session 2023, and further requests that UNOPS extend monthly briefings until the first regular session 2024;
12. Decides to include an item for decision on the comprehensive response plan on the agenda of every session of the Board throughout the duration of the implementation period;
13. Recalls its decisions 2022/21 and 2022/24 requesting that UNOPS take all measures necessary within its remit to recover all funds, and ensure full accountability, including

individual accountability, in accordance with United Nations staff regulations and rules, and further requests that UNOPS provide the Executive Board by the annual session 2023, including potentially through confidential briefings, with any additional available information about progress and the costs associated with the recovery of S3i-related funds;

With regard to UNOPS reserves and use thereof:

14. *Recalls* decision 2022/13 to freeze all transfers out of the operational reserve for any purpose other than daily operations;
15. *Reaffirms* that all necessary organizational investment requirements and other expenses required to keep UNOPS fit-for-purpose should be included in the financial biennium that is approved by the Executive Board;
16. *Requests* that going forward UNOPS set its fees to ensure it has the financial means required to maintain the minimum operational reserve level and make any organizational investment, as per the biennial budget estimates, while eliminating any accumulation of reserves over and above the minimum operational reserve, and in this regard requests an informal briefing before the annual session 2023 on adjustments made to the UNOPS cost recovery model;
17. *Decides* to approve the allocation of a maximum sum of \$35.4 million to be distributed in tranches to UNOPS from the operational reserve towards the implementation of defined elements of the comprehensive response plan, and as detailed in the UNOPS financial outlook for 2023;
18. *Approves* one immediate single transfer of \$11.8 million, of the maximum sum of \$35.4 million, out of the operational reserve into the UNOPS budget to allow for the initial implementation of defined elements of the comprehensive response plan, and as detailed in the UNOPS financial outlook for 2023, for which no resources are available in the existing 2023 regular budget;
19. *Decides* to release subsequent tranches at the request of UNOPS, at a formal session in 2023, contingent upon demonstrated progress in implementing the comprehensive response plan and the provision of information on how the previous tranche was utilized;
20. *Further requests* that UNOPS provide the Executive Board with detailed information on the timelines of anticipated and actual expenditures, progress of implementation, and results achieved with these expenditures during the monthly update briefings to the Executive Board as well as during the updates to the Executive Board requested in paragraph 11 of this decision;
21. *Decides* that UNOPS distribute to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, its excess reserves, defined as total accumulated reserves minus the minimum operational reserve, as established by the Executive Board in its decision 2021/21;
22. *Requests* that UNOPS distribute without delay its excess reserves accumulated as of 31 December 2021, minus \$35.4 million, to each paying entity, including those of the United Nations system, based on the management fees generated from each paying entity as a proportional share of total management fees received by UNOPS from 1 January 2018 through 31 December 2021 (four calendar years);
23. *Directs* UNOPS to proceed with the request in paragraph 22 with the understanding that total accumulated reserves as of 31 December 2021 minus the minimum operational reserve and minus \$35.4 million would be fully distributed;
24. *Decides* to take a decision at the annual session 2023 on the distribution to paying entities, including those of the United Nations system, of excess reserves accumulated after 31 December 2021, on the basis of additional information provided by UNOPS in its monthly update briefings or as requested by the Executive Board, including the Bureau of the Board.

3 February 2023

2023/5

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

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2023, it:

Item 1

Organizational matters

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

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

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

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

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

Approved the tentative workplan for the annual session 2023;

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

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

Joint segment

Item 2

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

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

Item 3

Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

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

Item 4

Follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

Took note of the joint UNDP/UNFPA report on the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board ([DP-FPA/2023/1](#));

Item 5

Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

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

UNDP segment

Item 6

Human Development Report

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

Item 7

UNDP country programmes and related matters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Item 8

UNDP evaluation

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

UNFPA segment

Item 9

Evaluation

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

Item 10

Country programmes and related matters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNOPS segment

Item 11

United Nations Office for Project Services

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

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

Item 12

Other matters

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

3 February 2023

**TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
ANNUAL SESSION 2023
(5 – 9 June 2023, New York)**

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 5 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session - Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2023 JOINT SEGMENT
		3	INTERNAL AUDIT AND INVESTIGATION Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation activities in 2022, and management responses
		4	ETHICS Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities for 2022, and management responses
	3 – 5 p.m.	5	PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT
		2	UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS ON THE REPOSITIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM
Tuesday, 6 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT
		6	INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR AND ANNUAL REPORT - Report of the Administrator on results for 2022 and progress on the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 - UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2022 - Statistical annex
	3 – 5 p.m.	9	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS - Presentation and approval of country programme documents - Extensions of country programmes
		7	GENDER EQUALITY AT UNDP Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2022-2025
Wednesday, 7 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT (cont.)
		10	UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND Report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2022
		11	UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS United Nations Volunteers: annual report of the Administrator

	3 – 5 p.m.	8	EVALUATION • Annual report on evaluation, 2022, and management commentaries • Evaluation of UNDP support to social protection, and management response • Evaluation of UNDP support to access to justice, and management response
Thursday, 8 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	12	UNFPA SEGMENT STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ANNUAL REPORT • Progress on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 • Statistical and financial review, 2022 • Report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2022 • UNFPA response to the Joint Inspection Unit review of management and administration in the United Nations Population Fund
	3 – 5 p.m.	13	EVALUATION • Annual report on the UNFPA evaluation function 2022, and management commentaries • Evaluation of UNFPA support to population dynamics and data, and management response • Evaluation of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth, and management response
		14	UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
Friday, 9 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	15	UNOPS SEGMENT STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • Early midterm review of the UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, including the annual report of the Executive Director for 2022 • UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, restated
	3 – 5 p.m.	16	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of decisions
		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2023 • Closing of the session