



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

Distr.: General
17 June 2011

Original: English

Annual session of 2011

27-30 June 2011, New York

Item 1 of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters

**Report of the resumed first regular session of 2011,
21 March and 8 April 2011**

Summary

The present report of the resumed first regular session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

* UNW/2011/L.2.



Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Proposed financial regulations and rules of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

1. The Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) held its 7th and 8th meetings on 21 March 2011. The President of the Executive Board, U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria), opened the Board's resumed first regular session. On behalf of the Board, she welcomed Lakshmi Puri, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women. She noted that, at its first regular session of 2011 (24 to 26 January 2011), the Executive Board had decided to postpone consideration of the proposed financial regulations and rules of UN-Women (see UNW/2011/5 and Add.1) to a resumed session in order to take into account the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see UNW/2011/7). She had requested Magnus Lennartsson (Sweden), Vice-President of the Executive Board, to serve as facilitator of the informal consultations on the proposed financial regulations and rules.

2. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director introduced the documentation for the resumed session. She noted that, in its resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, the General Assembly had decided that the operational activities of UN-Women should have financial regulations and rules similar to those of other operational United Nations funds and programmes and that they should be consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The UN-Women proposal was in line with that decision. The proposed financial regulations and rules were based largely on those of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) owing to expected similarities with regard to the scale and scope of funding and operational activities and the scale and configuration of its country presence. Like UN-Women, UNFPA relied on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a variety of operational support services in programme countries and at Headquarters. UN-Women had therefore adopted some of the regulations and rules of UNDP. Deviations from the regulations and rules of UNFPA and UNDP were indicated in document UNW/2011/5/Add.1. In two cases, other sources had been used: regulation 12.1 was derived from the Financial Regulations and Rules of the World Food Programme, as that was the only entity that had implemented the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) to date. Rule 1501 was based on United Nations regulation 2.10, for clarification purposes and as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Overall, the proposed financial regulations and rules had been checked for compatibility with IPSAS.

3. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee had been incorporated and addressed prior to the resumed session. The Advisory Committee's response had been positive, and the issues it had raised had been addressed through the addition of language to reflect the partial funding of UN-Women from assessed contributions through the regular budget. Amendments had also been made to clarify the retention of accountability by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director for delegated authority. Other modifications had been reported to the Executive Board at the informal consultations.

4. The President suggested that a proposal on the levels of the operational reserves to be held by UN-Women be presented at the annual session of 2011 for a decision by the Executive Board, pursuant to proposed regulation 19.2. In addition, in accordance with proposed regulation 13.3, it was suggested that proposals be made to the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2011 regarding the level of assistance to country, regional and interregional programmes and projects that can be approved by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director.

5. Mr. Lennartsson provided a brief summary of the informal consultations on the proposed financial regulations and rules held prior to the resumed first regular session, noting that there were still several outstanding issues. Speakers underlined the need for the proposed regulations and rules to allow UN-Women to work effectively and efficiently.

6. The President proposed that the session be suspended to allow for the continuation of informal consultations, with a view to reaching agreement on the remaining outstanding issues. Since there was no objection, the session was suspended.

7. At its 9th meeting, on 8 April 2011, the President informed the Executive Board that agreement had been reached on all pending issues, following informal consultations subsequent to the 21 March meeting. A revised version of the proposed financial regulations and rules of UN-Women (UNW/2011/5/Rev.1) had been submitted to the Board for approval.

8. Mr. Lennartsson provided an update on the informal consultations and introduced the document and the draft decision.

9. The Executive Board approved the following decision:

2011/2

Proposed financial regulations and rules of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The Executive Board

Recalling paragraph 79 of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010,

Having considered the report on the proposed financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNW/2011/5 and Rev.1 and Add.1), and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNW/2011/7),

1. *Takes note* of the report on the proposed financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNW/2011/5 and Rev.1 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNW/2011/7);

2. *Adopts* the financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women as contained in UNW/2011/5/Rev.1.

10. After the decision was adopted, delegations expressed satisfaction with the consensus reached on the financial regulations and rules for UN-Women; they also expressed their appreciation to the facilitator of the informal consultations and to all delegations that had participated in the consultations. The negotiations had resulted in a balanced text that reflected the composite nature of the entity. One delegation noted that, in all documents, the title of the head of the Entity must be used in accordance with the title indicated in General Assembly resolution 64/289.

Organizational matters

11. The Executive Board approved a change in dates for its second regular session of 2011, from 1 and 2 September to 5 to 7 December. This change would allow the consideration of the support budget for the biennium 2012-2013 to take into account the result of the Executive Board's discussions on the strategic plan for 2011-2013 at its annual session of 2011.

12. The Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships and Deputy Executive Director expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to engage with the Executive Board in the joint endeavour to build a strong and effective foundation of financial regulations and rules for UN-Women. On behalf of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director, she recognized the Board's detailed consideration of the document, which would serve as the financial regulatory framework for UN-Women. She expressed special thanks to Mr. Lennartsson, who had served as facilitator of many hours of informal consultations and had shown patience, mediation skills and dedication as he steered the negotiations to a successful conclusion. She also thanked Mr. Gana, who had ably facilitated two of the informal consultations.

13. UN-Women looked forward to the annual session of 2011, when the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director would present the UN-Women strategic plan for 2011-2013 to the Executive Board. A series of informal consultations on the strategic plan would be held in the coming weeks to enable UN-Women to receive the Board's strategic guidance and feedback.

14. In concluding, the President recognized the positive momentum created within the Executive Board of UN-Women at its first regular session, which had included the approval of the first biennial support budget for 2010-2011 and the financial regulations and rules for UN-Women.