



**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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3 to 7 June 2024, New York

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

**Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular
session 2024**

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**First regular session 2024
(29 January to 2 February 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 carryforward 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;

Approved 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);

Approved 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);

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

Africa region – the Gambia (DP/DCP/GMB/4), Guinea, (DP/DCP/GIN/4), Madagascar (DP/DCP/MDG/5), Mauritius (DP/DCP/MUS/5), Seychelles (DP/DCP/SYC/4);

Asia-Pacific region – Bhutan (DP/DCP/BTN/3), Cambodia (DP/DCP/KHM/5), the Philippines (DP/DSP/PHL/4);

Latin America and the Caribbean region – Brazil (DP/DCP/BRA/4);

Took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Cuba; took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Sudan and Ukraine; and approved the third and second-year extensions of the country programmes for Sudan and Ukraine (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 the following UNFPA country programmes in accordance with decision 2014/7:

Asia and the Pacific: Bhutan (DP/FPA/CPD/BTN/8), Cambodia (DP/FPA/CPD/KHM/7), the Philippines (DP/FPA/CPD/PHL/9); Papua New Guinea (DP/FPA/CPD/PNG/7);

Eastern and Southern Africa: Madagascar (DP/FPA/CPD/MDG/9);

Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil (DP/FPA/CPD/BRA/7), Nicaragua (DP/FPA/CPD/NIC/10);

West and Central Africa: the Gambia (DP/FPA/CPD/GMB/9) and Guinea (DP/FPA/CPD/GIN/9);

Approved the second, one-year extension of the country programme for Ukraine; and the third, one-year extension of the country programme for 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 on UNOPS;

Adopted decision 2024/5 on the 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

**TENTATIVE WORKPLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
ANNUAL SESSION 2024
(3 – 7 June 2024, New York)**

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 3 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2024 <p style="text-align: center;">JOINT SEGMENT</p>
		3	INTERNAL AUDIT AND INVESTIGATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation activities in 2023, and management responses
		20	THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT ON GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS
	3 – 6:00 p.m.	4	ETHICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities for 2023, and management responses
		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
6		FIELD VISITS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of the field visit of the Executive Board to Uruguay 	
Tuesday, 4 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT
		7	INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2025, INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2023 Statistical annex, 2023
	3 – 5:30 p.m.	8	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm review of the UNDP integrated resources plan and the integrated budget, 2022-2025 Report of the ACABQ on the midterm review of the UNDP integrated resources plan and the integrated budget, 2022-2025
		10	UNDP EVALUATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report on evaluation, 2023, and management commentaries Evaluation of UNDP support to private sector development and structural transformation, and management response Evaluation of UNDP support to ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation, and management response

Wednesday, 5 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	14	<p style="text-align: center;">UNFPA SEGMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <p>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated midterm review and progress report on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 • Statistical and financial review, 2023 • UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2023
	3 – 5:30 p.m.	15	<p>FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm review of the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025 • ACABQ report on the midterm review of the UNFPA integrated budget, 2022-2025 <p>16</p> <p>UNFPA EVALUATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report on the evaluation function 2023, and management commentaries • Formative evaluation of the operational resilience of UNFPA in light of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and management response
Thursday, 6 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	18	<p style="text-align: center;">UNOPS SEGMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNOPS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <p>STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on implementation of the restated UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 • Comprehensive response plan in response to the recommendations of the two independent third-party reviews of UNOPS
	3 – 4 p.m.	18	<p style="text-align: center;">UNOPS SEGMENT (cont'd)</p> <p>STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the findings of the independent comprehensive evaluation of the sustainable investments in infrastructure and innovation (S3i) initiative • Terms of reference for the external third-party review of the comprehensive response plan
	4 – 6 p.m.	12	<p style="text-align: center;">UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)</p> <p>UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm review of the UNCDF Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, including the annual report on results achieved by UNCDF for 2023 <p>13</p> <p>UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Volunteers: annual report of the Administrator

Friday, 7 June	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	9	<p style="text-align: center;">UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)</p> <p>GENDER EQUALITY AT UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2022-2025
		11	<p>UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensions of country programmes
		17	<p style="text-align: center;">UNFPA SEGMENT (cont'd)</p> <p>UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and approval of country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes
	3 – 4 p.m.	19	<p>OTHER MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of decisions
		1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2024 • Closing of the session