



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

Distr.: General
7 January 2013

Original: English

**Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women at its 2012 sessions**



Contents

Decisions

<i>Decision number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
First regular session: 24 January 2012		
2012/1	Report on operational activities	3
Annual session: 29 May-1 June 2012		
2012/2	Progress report of the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director on the implementation of the strategic plan, 2011-2013	3
2012/3	Proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	4
2012/4	Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture	5
2012/5	Report on the evaluation function, 2011	6
Second regular session: 28-30 November 2012		
2012/6	Regional architecture: administrative, budgetary and financial implications and implementation plan	7
2012/7	Progress report towards a harmonized cost-recovery policy	8
2012/8	Proposed approach for calculating the operational reserve for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	9
2012/9	Evaluation policy of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	9
2012/10	Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011	10

Decisions

2012/1

Report on operational activities

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the operational activities of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;¹

2. *Decides* to transmit the report to the Economic and Social Council.

24 January 2012

2012/2

Progress report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the implementation of the strategic plan, 2011-2013

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* its decision 2011/3 endorsing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011-2013;²

2. *Also recalls* that the mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) mandate calls on the Entity to have universal coverage and strategic presence and to ensure closer linkages between the norm-setting intergovernmental work and operations at the field level;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013;³

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the strategic plan, 2011-2013;⁴

5. *Commends* UN-Women for leading the development of the United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women, welcomes its adoption by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination as an accountability framework to be applied throughout the United Nations system, calls upon UN-Women to continue its effective coordination work and recommends that the Economic and Social Council consider steps to encourage the full application of the system-wide action plan;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 73 of General Assembly resolution 64/289, reiterates that the composition of and selection of staff for UN-Women should be in accordance with the provisions of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, with due regard to geographical representation and gender balance, and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to include in her future reports information on progress made in this regard;

¹ UNW/2012/1.

² As contained in document UNW/2011/13.

³ UNW/2012/4.

⁴ UNW/2011/9.

7. *Recalls* further paragraph 6 of decision 2011/3 and looks forward to the further development of results frameworks in line with that decision and its presentation to the Executive Board in preparation for the annual session of 2013;

8. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to implement the strategic plan, 2011-2013, in accordance with its mandate, in particular by making progress on all six goals of the strategic plan⁴ and responding to the needs of and national priorities determined by Member States, upon their request, reaffirming in this regard the principles of universality and national ownership in field activities;

9. *Encourages* UN-Women to continue its good work in implementing all planned activities and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to include, in her report to the annual session of 2013, an analysis of progress made in implementing the strategic plan, 2011-2013, including conclusions and recommendations for addressing challenges in all regions.

1 June 2012

2012/3

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

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* regulations 1.1 and 1.4 of the proposed financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;⁵

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions⁶ and of the management response from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);

3. *Notes with appreciation* the proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for UN-Women⁷ on the basis of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and harmonized cost classifications under the integrated budget;

4. *Approves* the proposed amendments to the financial regulations, endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee,⁸ takes note of the amended financial rules and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to report on the implementation of the amended financial regulations and rules in the context of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

1 June 2012

⁵ UNW/2011/5/Rev.1.

⁶ UNW/2012/7, the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as contained in document UNW/2012/6.

⁷ UNW/2012/6.

⁸ See UNW/2012/7.

2012/4

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture

The Executive Board,

1. *Reaffirms* General Assembly resolution 64/289 and that, based on the principle of universality, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) shall provide, through its normative support functions and operational activities, guidance and technical support to all Member States, across all levels of development and in all regions, at their request, on gender equality, the empowerment and rights of women and gender mainstreaming;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the work of UN-Women should lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and that it will operate as part of the resident coordinator system, within United Nations country teams, leading and coordinating the work of the country teams on gender equality and the empowerment of women, under the overall leadership of the resident coordinators;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 8 of its decision 2011/5,² in which the Executive Board looked forward to considering a report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the conclusions of the regional architecture review, including potential reconfiguration of regional, subregional and country presence, and the budgetary implications of the report;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;⁹

5. *Welcomes* the general direction of the regional architecture, including the guiding principles for its development, as identified in paragraph 30 of the report;

6. *Acknowledges* the ongoing and evolving nature of the process on the review of the regional architecture and encourages UN-Women to continue to carry this process forward;

7. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit a report on the overall administrative, functional and budgetary implications of the regional architecture, which should include, inter alia, an implementation plan, with a view to taking a final decision at the second regular session of 2012 of the Executive Board.

1 June 2012

⁹ UNW/2012/5.

2012/5 Report on the evaluation function, 2011

The Executive Board,

Recalling standard 1 of the Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the United Nations System established by the United Nations Evaluation Group and paragraph 72 of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013,⁴

1. *Takes note* of the report on the UN-Women evaluation function, 2011¹⁰ and of the programme of work for 2012-2013 contained therein, as proposed by the Evaluation Office, which follows the relevant provisions of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013;⁴

2. *Looks forward* to the development of the evaluation policy for UN-Women, consistent with General Assembly resolutions 62/208 and 64/289 and the Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the United Nations System of the United Nations Evaluation Group, requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit the policy for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2012, and in this regard, also requests UN-Women to update and consult with the Board about the development of the evaluation policy prior to its second regular session of 2012;

3. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to develop the evaluation function and the use of evaluation, to be governed by the upcoming evaluation policy, which will establish the types, mandatory nature, roles and responsibilities for evaluations, including quality assurance, within the organization, with respect to its normative support and operational work and consistent with the mandate of the Entity, and to report in this regard at the annual session of 2013;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the independent Evaluation Office and looks forward to UN-Women efforts to further strengthen the independence, credibility and use of evaluations as part of its evaluation policy;

5. *Emphasizes* that programme countries should have greater ownership and leadership in the evaluation of all forms of assistance and encourages UN-Women to pursue and intensify its efforts to strengthen evaluation capacities in programme countries with respect to its mandate on gender equality and the empowerment of women by, inter alia, forging strong partnerships with relevant national institutions;

6. *Requests* UN-Women to consult Governments and other stakeholders when carrying out evaluation activities of programmes supported by the Entity;

7. *Also requests* UN-Women to address issues raised in past evaluations and to increase the rate of management response to evaluation reports as well as the rate of implementation of follow-up actions and to report thereon.

1 June 2012

¹⁰ UNW/2012/8.

2012/6

Regional architecture: administrative, budgetary and financial implications and implementation plan

The Executive Board,

1. *Reaffirms* General Assembly resolution 64/289 and that, based on the principle of universality, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) shall provide, through its normative support functions and operational activities, guidance and technical support to all Member States, across all levels of development and in all regions, at their request, on gender equality, the empowerment and rights of women and gender mainstreaming;

2. *Recalls* its decision 2012/4 on the regional architecture;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture: administrative, budgetary and financial implications and implementation plan;¹¹

4. *Welcomes* efforts by UN-Women to strengthen its presence at the field level in accordance with the principles laid out in the strategic plan, 2011-2013 and the institutional budget for 2012-2013;¹²

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions¹³ and of the related management response from UN-Women and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to ensure prompt implementation of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and take them fully into account in the preparation of the next institutional budget, for 2014-2015;

6. *Takes note* of the recommendations relevant to the implementation of the regional architecture contained in the report of the Board of Auditors¹⁴ and encourages UN-Women to continue implementing them;

7. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to present to the Executive Board, in the context of the annual report, further details on overall coherence between field and Headquarter levels, as well as key performance indicators, and requests UN-Women to update the Executive Board regularly on the implementation of the regional architecture, its progress and challenges, including through an oral briefing during the annual session of 2013;

8. *Endorses* the regional architecture and its implementation plan and affirms that the resulting budgetary implications will be met within the appropriation of the institutional budget for 2012-2013, as proposed in the report;¹¹

9. *Approves* the amendments to the institutional budget for 2012-2013, and takes note that the restated institutional budget amounts to \$147.9 million.

30 November 2012

¹¹ UNW/2012/10.

¹² UNW/2011/11.

¹³ UNW/2012/11.

¹⁴ A/67/5/Add.13 and Corr.1.

2012/7**Progress report towards a harmonized cost-recovery policy**

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the progress towards a harmonized cost-recovery policy;¹⁵

2. *Welcomes* the involvement of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in the inter-agency working group of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with the objective of arriving at a harmonized conceptual framework and calculation methodology for cost recovery and requests UN-Women to present concrete proposals at the first regular session of 2013;

3. *Notes* that UN-Women, which is a composite entity, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF have different business models and mandates, and that this implies that their funding structures differ;

4. *Takes note* of decision 2012/27 of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)¹⁶ and decision 2012/20 of UNICEF,¹⁷ and requests further information in order to take an informed decision on a cost-recovery policy;

5. *Recalls* the principle of full cost recovery as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 62/208, as well as the principle of avoiding the use of core resources to cover costs related to the management of non-core funds and their programme activities, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence;

6. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, at its first regular session of 2013, a proposed set of principles, criteria and procedures that should guide the collection and use of cost-recovery income, as harmonized with the approach taken by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF;

7. *Requests* that the proposals be accompanied, if necessary, by a description of the transitional arrangement needed to ensure incorporation of the new harmonized approach in the proposals for the integrated budget for 2014-2015.

30 November 2012

¹⁵ UNW/2012/13.

¹⁶ DP/2013/2.

¹⁷ E/ICEF/2012/17.

2012/8

Proposed approach for calculating the operational reserve for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the proposed approach for calculating the operational reserve of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;¹⁸
2. *Approves* the proposed methodology for calculating the operational reserve and requests that the methodology be revisited after one biennium;
3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the establishment of a reserve for field office accommodations;
4. *Takes note* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,¹² in particular its comments on the need for the Executive Board's approval of the level of operational reserve to be presented in the annual financial statements, and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to ensure its implementation.

30 November 2012

2012/9

Evaluation policy of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The Executive Board,

1. *Approves* the evaluation policy outlined in the report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)¹⁹ with respect to its mandate;
2. *Recognizes* that the performance indicators included in the organization's strategic plan and norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group form an integral basis for the evaluation policy of UN-Women;
3. *Also recognizes* that accountability to stakeholders, credible and reliable evidence for decision-making and contributions to knowledge are the three equally important purposes of evaluation;
4. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the steps taken by UN-Women to ensure an independent, credible and useful evaluation function, and in this regard, requests the Entity to allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the Evaluation Office and the overall evaluation function;
5. *Requests* UN-Women to ensure compliance with the evaluation policy through the establishment of mechanisms for the implementation of its principles and commitments and for increased capacities in the areas of programme design,

¹⁸ UNW/2012/14.

¹⁹ UNW/2012/12.

monitoring and evaluation, bearing in mind that programme countries should have greater ownership and leadership in the evaluation of all forms of assistance;

6. *Also requests* UN-Women to report on a regular basis on the progress made in continuing to strengthen the evaluation function and improve the use of evaluation.

30 November 2012

2012/10

Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on the internal audit and investigation activities for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011;²⁰

2. *Expresses* its support for the internal audit and investigations function assumed by the Office of Audit and Investigations and for strengthening the capacity of its UN-Women Audit Unit;

3. *Decides* that the Director of Internal Audit will make publicly available all internal audit reports issued after 1 December 2012;

4. *Welcomes* the safeguards envisaged by the Office of Audit and Investigations in that regard;

5. *Decides* that, before disclosing an internal audit report that contains findings related to a specific Member State, the Director of Internal Audit will provide a copy of the report to the concerned Member State and provide the concerned Member State with adequate time to review and comment on the report and in this context, notes that where information contained in an internal audit report is deemed by the Executive Director or by the concerned Member State to be particularly sensitive relating, inter alia, to third parties or to a country, Government or administration; or as compromising pending action; or as being likely to endanger the safety and security of any individual, violate his or her rights or invade his or her privacy, such internal audit report may be redacted or withheld in its entirety at the discretion of the Director of Internal Audit;

6. *Confirms* that the Director of Internal Audit may disclose, at the request of a Member State and under condition of confidentiality, internal audit reports issued prior to December 2012, and, in this context, notes that the Director of Internal Audit will, prior to disclosure, inform the Executive Board of the request, and, if the audit report contains findings related to a specific Member State, provide the concerned Member State with adequate time to review and comment on the report;

²⁰ UNW/2012/15.

7. *Requests* the Director of Internal Audit to include in the annual reports to the Executive Board the titles of all internal audit reports issued during that year and information on significant issues, if any, related to the public disclosure of internal audit reports, and to include in the annual report for 2014 an analysis of experience gained from public disclosure to date.

30 November 2012
