



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

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Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at its 2021 sessions

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¹ Note: This document was processed in its entirety by UN-Women.



Decisions

2021/1

Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and report of the Board of Auditors

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2019;
2. *Takes note* of the ninth unqualified audit opinion issued by the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of UN-Women for the year ended 31 December 2019;
3. *Takes note* of the management response of UN-Women to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2019, including the actions taken so far and further measures planned by UN-Women to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period ended on 31 December 2019, and requests UN-Women to continue implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors from prior years for closure by the Board of Auditors.

16 February 2021

2021/2

Annual 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 implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the 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 implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021 (UNW/2021/2), and further note UN-Women's strong performance to date in meeting its annual targets;
2. *Recognizes* the measures taken by UN-Women as part of a coordinated international response in the context of COVID-19, including through the creation and utilization of relevant analytical and data-collection tools that support mainstreaming a gender perspective in the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts;
3. *Encourages* UN-Women to take into account lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021, including its midterm review, as well as from its previous strategic plans;
4. *Encourages* UN-Women to assess the targets set for the outputs of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021, especially those that have consistently been overachieved, and present alternatives in the Strategic Plan 2022–2025;
5. *Urges* UN-Women to continue to align, as appropriate, its results framework with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Encourages* UN-Women to design the results framework of the Strategic Plan 2022–2025 in line with applicable guidance of the 2020 QCPR, and requests UN-Women while taking into account its own priorities, to harmonize, where appropriate, its indicators with other United Nations entities, with a focus on all results levels, and maximize the use of common results indicators;

7. *Requests* UN-Women to provide in a timely manner, ahead of the second regular session of 2021, more-detailed information on the results framework, including on the relationship to the QCPR;

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

23 June 2021

2021/3

Report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2020

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the 2020 report on the evaluation function of UN-Women, the 2021 programme of work and budget of the Independent Evaluation Service;

2. *Takes note* with appreciation that UN-Women continues to maintain an independent, credible and useful evaluation function and its contribution to system-wide, gender-responsive evaluation efforts and national evaluation capacity development;

3. *Notes* the report on the corporate evaluation of UN-Women's United Nations system coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women;

4. *Takes note* of the pilot assessment of disability inclusion in evaluation;

5. *Notes* the progress made in implementing decision 2020/4 and requests UN-Women to continue its efforts in order to fully implement this decision with a specific focus on key performance indicators which can be further improved, and further notes its efforts to actively adapt the evaluation function to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic;

6. *Encourages* UN-Women to increase investments towards allocation of at least 2 per cent and up to 3 per cent of its total programme expenditure to the evaluation function, and requests UN-Women to continue working to safeguard the independence of the Independent Evaluation Service and ensuring evaluation expertise in the Advisory Committee on Oversight (ACO);

7. *Expresses* continuing support for strengthening the independent evaluation function in UN-Women.

23 June 2021

2021/4
Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period 1 January to 31 December 2020 and the related management response;
2. *Takes note* of the Advisory Committee on Oversight's report for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020;
3. *Encourages* UN-Women management to continue strengthening its second line of defence and its work on the establishment of a Statement of Internal Controls;
4. *Calls on* the Independent Evaluation and Audit Service of UN-Women, in coordination with UN-Women's external investigations provider, to continue working with UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF and WFP towards harmonized definitions and reporting for internal audits and investigation matters, where applicable and to the extent possible, and to provide feedback to the UN-Women Executive Board in an appropriate manner.

23 June 2021

2021/5
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the preparatory work done and the various informal briefings and workshops with the Executive Board as well as other relevant stakeholders, on the process of elaboration of UN-Women's Strategic Plan 2022–2025 and endorses the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025;
2. *Notes* that the strategic plan is the overall strategic framework for UN-Women and is not intergovernmentally negotiated, and acknowledges that the strategic plan and its annexes include some terms that have not been intergovernmentally endorsed in the United Nations system;
3. *Requests* UN-Women to implement its Strategic Plan in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome documents of their reviews, and applicable United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and the advancement of women, as well as with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the agreement and consent of the host country, taking into account the different national realities, national legislation, ownership and cultural backgrounds, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policy space, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments;
4. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board at its annual session in 2022, the final progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021;
5. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, beginning at its annual session in 2023, an annual progress report

on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022–2025, as well as to undertake a midterm review of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025;

6. *Recalls* its decision 2021/02 (paragraph 6) and requests UN-Women to include in the annual reports of the Under Secretary-General/Executive Director on the implementation of the strategic plan, 2022–2025, including in its midterm review, information on results jointly achieved with United Nations development system entities;

7. *Welcomes* the appointment of the third Executive Director of UN-Women.

15 September 2021

2021/6

Integrated Budget estimates for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium 2022–2023

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the UN-Women integrated budget estimates for 2022–2023, which presents a single, integrated budget proposal that includes all budgetary categories, to complement the Entity’s Strategic Plan 2022–2025;

2. *Recalls* the General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/64/289](#) whereby Member States agreed “that the resources required to service the normative intergovernmental processes shall be funded from the regular budget and approved by the General Assembly; the resources required to service the operational intergovernmental processes and operational activities at all levels shall be funded from voluntary contributions and approved by the Executive Board”;

3. *Takes note* of UN-Women’s zero-growth budget while addressing the additional requirements, reflecting both inflationary cost increases and new ERP-Cloud Solution requirements, through cost savings and efficiencies;

4. *Approves* gross institutional budget resources in the amount of \$204.4 million to support organizational effectiveness and efficiency, and notes that these estimates include an amount of \$39.3 million for cost recovery from other resources (earmarked voluntary contributions);

5. *Notes* that in the event that actual cost recovery is higher than the estimates included in the budget proposal, the additional amount may be used for management activities to allow more regular resources to be used for programme activities, requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on its utilization in the context of the next budget proposal;

6. *Notes* the inclusion of the separate cost classification category for oversight and assurance activities further to the Executive Board 2020/8 approved joint comprehensive cost-recovery policy ([DP/FPA-ICEF-UNW/2020/1](#));

7. *Notes* UN-Women integrated budget estimates for 2022–2023 and the urgent need for increased investment in gender equality and women’s empowerment to support the results as set out in the Strategic Plan, and encourages UN-Women to engage further Member States and other partners to increase their voluntary contributions, especially in regular resources, and takes note of UN Women’s proposals to enhance its resource mobilization;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNW/2021/CRP.8) on the UN-Women integrated budget,

2022–2023, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and the related response of UN-Women to the ACABQ report, and requests UN-Women to address the recommendations and to report back to the Executive Board in the context of the next Integrated Budget on actions taken, including on balanced staffing structures.

15 September 2021

2021/7

Structured Dialogue on Financing the results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018–2021

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on Structured Dialogue on Financing the Results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 ([UNW/2021/8](#)) and encourages UN-Women to engage further in structured dialogue with Member States, with a view to tracking, assessing and following up on the level of funding it receives, including of core resources, as well as predictability, flexibility and alignment of resource provided for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022–2025;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of sufficient flexible and predictable funding, including through multi-year commitments and payments made early in the year to enable UN-Women to fulfil its mandate;

3. *Notes* the importance of Member State commitments to the Funding Compact, particularly with regard to regular, flexible and multi-year commitments and encourages UN-Women to continue to strengthen its efforts to diversify its funding base, including further pursuing individual giving schemes;

4. *Recognizes* the disproportionate socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls and encourage Member States in a position to do so, to make targeted investments in gender equality and women’s empowerment through voluntary contributions to UN-Women, strengthening UN-Women’s regular resources and flexible pooled interagency funding mechanisms in line with the Funding Compact;

5. *Encourages* Member States to increase voluntary contributions, in particular regular resources, mindful of the serious impact of insufficient funding on UN-Women’s ability to fully implement its strategic plan;

6. *Notes with appreciation* UN-Women’s ongoing efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability and requests UN-Women to continue its efforts in this regard and to provide information on its programme activities within the proceedings of the Executive Board.

15 September 2021
