

2023/3

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 2022-2025

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 2022-2025, and commends UN-Women on its strong performance to date;
2. *Recognizes* UN-Women's contribution and its focused engagement within the United Nations development system to ensure that gender equality and women and girls empowerment continue to be an integral part of the sustainable development agenda;
3. *Encourages* UN-Women to make full use of its comparative advantage and to continue the full implementation of its triple mandate, in accordance with A/RES/64/289, which includes normative support, UN system-wide coordination and operational activities;
4. *Welcomes* the transparent manner in which the unallocated regular resources surplus was brought to the attention of the Executive Board and calls on UN-Women to continue reducing its unallocated resources balance in a timely manner;
5. *Welcomes* the steps taken by UN-Women so far on the unallocated regular resources surplus, encourages UN-Women to further consider measures to improve forward looking and efficient budget management and requests an update in this regard in advance of the first regular session 2024;
6. *Takes notes* with concern of the funding gap in regular resources, and encourages all countries in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions for the full and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and encourage strengthened partnerships in this regard;
7. *Decides* to transmit the report to the Economic and Social Council.

21 June 2023

2023/4

Report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2022

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the 2022 report on the evaluation function of UN-Women and the Independent Evaluation Service 2023 programme of work and budget;
2. *Takes note with appreciation* that UN-Women continues to maintain an independent, credible and useful evaluation function and of its contribution to systemwide gender-responsive evaluation efforts and national evaluation capacity development, and encourages UN-Women to continue to make use of evaluation results including in its decision making processes;
3. *Notes* the report on the corporate evaluation of UN-Women's contribution to women's economic empowerment, takes note of the ongoing development of a UN-Women strategy on Women economic empowerment; and requests UN-Women to provide an informal briefing on the development of the strategy prior to its completion, and present the strategy to the board for information no later than the first regular session 2024;
4. *Encourages* UN-Women to implement the whole set of recommendations of the corporate evaluation of UN-Women's contribution to women's economic empowerment, towards sufficiently strengthening and resourcing UN-Women's work in this regard, and requests UN-Women to report on its implementation within the Annual Report of the Executive Director 2023, which will be considered for decision at the annual session 2024;
5. *Recalls* previous Executive Board decisions on the Report on the evaluation function, and requests UN-Women to continue its efforts to achieve a high evaluation performance with a specific focus on key performance indicators which can be further improved;
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. *Encourages* the IES to continue to seek opportunities with other United Nations agencies to conduct further joint evaluations, including Country Framework evaluations, and independent system-wide evaluations in line with General Assembly resolution 72/279 on repositioning the United Nations Development System;
8. *Expresses* continuing support for strengthening the evaluation function in UN-Women and the utilization of evaluations, in line with the Evaluation Policy as endorsed by the Executive Board in 2020.

21 June 2023

2023/5

**Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period
from 1 January to 31 December 2022**

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022;
2. *Takes note* of the Advisory Committee on Oversight's annual report;
3. *Takes note* of the management response to these two reports;
4. *Urges* UN-Women management, based on the concerning gaps identified by the Advisory Committee on Oversight, to strengthen its second line of defence, enhance investment in its ability to implement oversight recommendations, ensure sufficient and stable capacity in particular at the decentralized level, and to advance the preparation of a Statement of Internal Controls process;
5. *Further urges* UN-Women management to prioritize the implementation of those UN-BoA recommendations from 2021 and past years, which are still in progress but for which the ACO found the proposed actions insufficiently addressed;
6. *Recalls* decision 2023/1, notes with appreciation the completion of the initial assessment of the Financial Rules and Regulations and requests that UN-Women undertake a comprehensive review of the Financial Rules and Regulations to submit the revised Financial Rules and Regulations for approval to the Executive Board at the Second Regular Session 2025;
7. *Encourages* UN-Women to increase resources, as available, for the audit and investigation function;
8. *Expresses* its continuing support for the UN-Women Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS), reiterates the importance of its full independent and direct access to the Executive Board and of the full independence of the IEAS, including through the current practice that the Office comply with the standards of the International Professional Practice Framework by the Institute of Internal Auditors and requests at least one annual closed briefing to the Executive Board to discuss its annual workplan, the consolidated risk assessment, and any updates and concerns related to budget and staffing;
9. *Requests* the IEAS to continue to further improve its annual report by including substantive analysis of findings and continue providing an overview of strategic and systemic issues and trends, and encourage the Office to undertake a proactive approach in high-risk areas that are susceptible to fraud, corruption and other wrongdoing and include a discussion of these efforts in its annual report;
10. *Encourages* UN-Women Advisory Committee on Oversight to continue to present its annual report and key considerations to the Executive Board at the annual session, and encourages the management of UN-Women to continue to ensure gender balance and geographical representation in the composition of the Committee membership;
11. *Recalls* its decision 2022/8 on the self-assessment of the independence of the IEAS and requests an update from UN-Women to the Executive Board through an informal briefing before the second regular session of 2023, on the status of implementation of the recommendations included in the self-assessment of the independence of the Office.

21 June 2023

2023/6

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations Development System

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the update provided by UN-Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 and related mandates on the repositioning of the United Nations development system (UNDS) in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
2. *Takes note* of the commitment of UN-Women to the United Nations development system repositioning and encourages UN-Women to continue to work closely with other UNDS entities, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator in the country, to support countries, whilst delivering on its mandate, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the UNSDCFs and national plans, needs and priorities;
3. *Recalls* its decision 2022/6 and requests UN-Women to continue to implement resolutions 72/279, 75/233 and 76/4 and to support the efforts of the UNDS in implementing related mandates;
4. *Calls* on UN-Women to strengthen efforts to implement the Management and Accountability Framework, notes the evolving nature of the Framework, and calls on the organization to share its experiences in implementing the Framework at all levels;
5. *Recalls* decision 2022/6 and requests UN-Women to continue to include contributions of representatives at country level and regional directors to the implementation of UNDS reform within existing reporting;
6. *Requests* UN-Women to report on the complete UNDS Reform Checklist as an annex to existing annual reporting on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system;
7. *Also requests* UN-Women to continue to strive for inter-agency harmonization of reporting on implementation efforts and results of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including improved delivery of development programming at the country level;
8. *Recalls* the QCPR and stresses the importance of integrated solutions to address complex, multi-faceted challenges impacting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests UN-Women to continue supporting collaboration in joint analysis, needs assessments, planning, including collective outcomes, and programme delivery, and update the Board within existing reporting mechanisms;
9. *Further requests* UN-Women to continue to update the Executive Board annually on its implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and to include this as an item for decision during the annual session.

21 June 2023

2023/7

Update on UN-Women policies and procedures to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the updates by UN-Women on actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment;
2. *Recalls* decision 2022/2, and notes with appreciation, the progress made and the need for continued effort to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as part of the ‘zero tolerance for inaction’ approach, including ensuring that the required actions implemented at country, regional and global levels are properly resourced and deliver impact;
3. *Notes* UN-Women’s efforts to conduct risk assessments in respect of sexual exploitation and abuse; to work with implementing partners to assess and support their capacity to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse; and to provide victims and survivors with support and assistance;
4. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to take action to ensure a victim/survivor-centred, system-wide and coherent approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, and to continue to foster an inclusive and respectful organizational culture where all personnel are empowered and encouraged to report sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;
5. *Encourages* UN-Women in this regard to continue to report to the Executive Board at its annual sessions about all cases in a transparent and accountable manner, and ensure that reporting mechanisms are safe, inclusive and victim/survivor-centered, and to strengthen its efforts in whistleblower protection against retaliation;
6. *Encourages* UN-Women to continue to strive for inter-agency harmonization of reporting, and in this regard requests UN-Women to develop a more uniform template for its future reports on this topic, to be shared with the Executive Board, to better track year-on-year progress against indicators, allow for enhanced comparison of reports and gain a more strategic understanding of the results, impact and organizational culture change achieved from its efforts and activities;
7. *Further encourages* UN-Women to continue to increase its system-wide collaboration efforts to improve coordination, reporting and transparency and to work effectively with relevant UN entities at country, regional and global levels to ensure the exchange of lessons learned and best practices from the entire United Nations system;
8. *Expresses support for* the continued use of ClearCheck, and invites UN-Women to examine how ClearCheck and the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme can be used to complement each other to further improve vetting and to provide an update to the Board;
9. *Further encourages* UN-Women to consider piloting the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme.

21 June 2023