



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

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25-27 June 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Report on the first regular session, 23 and 24 January 2013 and resumed first regular session, 8 February 2013

I. Opening of the session

1. The first regular session of 2013 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 23 and 24 January 2013.
2. The outgoing President of the Bureau of the Executive Board, Kim Sook (Republic of Korea), opened the session. He invited the Secretary of the Executive Board to provide a briefing on the provisional agenda for the session and to outline the procedural amendments made.

II. Organizational matters

3. Under agenda item 1, organizational matters, the Board elected the Bureau for 2013. Normans Penke (Latvia), representing Eastern European States, was elected to the position of President of the Executive Board for the year 2013. The Vice-Presidents were elected from the following regional groups: Janet Karim (Malawi), representing African States; Junichi Sumi (Japan), representing Asia-Pacific States; Roberto De León Huerta (Mexico), representing Latin American and Caribbean States; and Vincent Herlihy (Ireland), representing Western European and other States.
4. The outgoing President thanked the Executive Board, especially the outgoing Vice-Presidents who served during his tenure, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women and the Executive Board secretariat. He noted the endorsement by the Board of the new regional architecture for UN-Women (decision 2012/6 of the Executive Board), and the implementation of the PaperSmart initiative, which took place under his Presidency.
5. The outgoing President recalled his field visit to Haiti and Guatemala as one of the highlights of his tenure. He had particularly appreciated the opportunity to speak



directly with women victims of sexual violence and to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by UN-Women on the ground. While commending the work of UN-Women, he urged the Entity to continue to strengthen its activities in the area of promoting efforts to end violence against women and ensuring accountability for perpetrators of violence. He reaffirmed the commitment of the Republic of Korea to the cause of gender equality and the empowerment of women around the world and closed his statement by highlighting the need for continued political, diplomatic and financial support for UN-Women.

6. The newly elected President of the Executive Board for 2013 thanked the outgoing President for initiating a smooth transition and acknowledged his contributions to the work of the Executive Board in 2012. He also congratulated the new Vice-Presidents on their election. He stated that over the past two years, UN-Women had become a leading force on gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations system and had surpassed the expectations of many. He looked forward to working with the Executive Board over the coming year and shared his expectations for important events in 2013, such as the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the joint field visit and joint meeting of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), of UN-Women and of the World Food Programme (WFP). In 2014, UN-Women would coordinate the joint field visit and joint meeting.

7. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women thanked the outgoing Bureau and welcomed the newly elected Bureau. She referred to recent widely publicized cases of violence against women around the world and called for the condemnation of the perpetrators. She urged Governments to participate in the UN-Women COMMIT initiative to end violence against women and girls, noting that 16 Governments had made commitments (as of the date of the session) and called on all Governments to do the same. She highlighted some of the significant advances made around the world in 2012 for gender equality, including the celebration of the first International Day of the Girl Child in October, and in December, the adoption by Member States of the first-ever resolution on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations (General Assembly resolution 67/146).

8. The Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session of 2013 and the report on the second regular session of 2012 (UNW/2012/17).

9. The Executive Board also approved the proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2013, to be held from 25 to 27 June 2013 (see annex I), and adopted the draft annual workplan for 2013, as orally revised (see annex II).

10. The Executive Board adopted two decisions: 2013/1 on the report on operational activities, and 2013/2 on the road map towards an integrated budget (see annex III).

III. Operational activities

11. The head of the Entity introduced her report on operational activities (UNW/2013/1). In highlighting key results achieved, she underscored the importance the Entity places on operational activities being aligned with its normative work. She was pleased to note that the recent resolution adopted by the General Assembly on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (resolution 67/226) reflected this aspect of the mandate of UN-Women. She gave a general overview of the six areas covered in the report, namely: funding; strategic partnerships; capacity development; improved functioning of the United Nations development system; evaluation; and follow-up to international conferences.

12. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the outgoing President and congratulated the newly elected President of the UN-Women Executive Board. They also commended the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women and staff of the Entity on their achievements, as highlighted in the report on operational activities.

13. Delegations called for future reports to contain a greater focus on results achieved, namely, to include information on how the activities of UN-Women had contributed to closing gender gaps and inequalities. In particular, delegations urged UN-Women to strengthen its initiatives and called for more systematic involvement in and reporting on such areas as humanitarian response; disaster risk reduction; climate change; education; women, peace and security; and capacity-building of United Nations staff on gender equality. The need for implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was also underscored, especially in the light of the third international conference on small island developing States, to be held in 2014.

14. Some delegations acknowledged the challenges faced by UN-Women with respect to funding, with total contributions falling short of the annual targets envisaged in the strategic plan, 2011-2013 (UNW/2011/9), and urged Member States to consider further increasing their core contributions to the Entity, especially in the context of discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015. Some delegations remarked that the current balance between core and non-core funding was significantly better than in many other United Nations bodies. They commended the resource mobilization strategy and the efforts of the Entity to widen the donor base, expanding outreach efforts to civil society (including the launch of the Global Civil Society Advisory Group) and the proactive engagement of UN-Women in securing private sector partnerships.

15. Speakers expressed appreciation for the support received from UN-Women through the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. The delegate from Spain congratulated UN-Women on the achievements made by the Fund for Gender Equality and commended the inclusion of new donors, noting that the Fund was originally conceived as a multi-donor fund.

16. Delegations acknowledged the efforts of UN-Women on coordination and the promotion of United Nations system-wide coherence and system-wide accountability for gender equality, in particular, the development of the system-wide

action plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women. One delegation urged UN-Women to increase the synergy and connectivity of its work with other international and regional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

17. Some speakers welcomed the launch of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality initiative, a joint programme of UN-Women and the United Nations Statistics Division. Recognizing the importance of decentralized programme evaluation, some delegations called on UN-Women to further increase the number of evaluations of operational activities at the country level. Others looked forward to the presentation of evaluations at the annual session and hoped the evaluations would contribute to more results-based reporting by UN-Women. The need to ensure that evaluation recommendations were taken into account was also mentioned.

18. Several delegations emphasized that ending violence against women was a priority area for UN-Women, referring to the significance of the COMMIT initiative and the priority theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”. Speakers also highlighted the “Safe Cities for Women and Children” programme as a good example of the work of UN-Women in this area. Delegations urged UN-Women to continue developing new thematic priorities. Many speakers made reference to the importance of the economic empowerment of women with respect to the adverse effect of economic crises on women.

19. Speakers urged UN-Women to contribute to the sustainable development agenda beyond 2015 in mainstreaming a gender perspective, as well as in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. Some underlined the inclusion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and acknowledged the role of UN-Women in assisting its partner agencies to carry out the mandate to enhance their effectiveness in advancing gender equality, as contained in General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. One delegation stressed that UN-Women should take the lead on keeping gender equality and the empowerment of women as a cornerstone of all development activities.

20. Speakers urged UN-Women to maintain results-based management in its revised strategic plan for the period 2014-2017, and looked forward to the revised results framework. Some requested a clear indication of the road map for the strategic plan for 2014-2017 and the convening of informal briefings and consultation on this subject, in addition to evaluations, prior to the annual session of the Executive Board for 2013. One delegation hoped that the strategic plan for 2014-2017 would envisage improved follow-up and reporting as well as deepened and broadened synergies with other United Nations entities.

21. With respect to the regional architecture, some delegations welcomed its decentralized structure. Solomon Islands proposed that UN-Women establish offices in locations within the Pacific small island developing States. Djibouti reiterated its call for the establishment of a UN-Women country office, a proposal initially made during the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP to Djibouti, in 2012. Delegations underlined the importance of transparency and equitable geographical representation in the

recruitment and distribution of staff and underlined the expectation that the new regional architecture would become fully functional by the end of 2013. Turkey welcomed the establishment of a regional office in Istanbul, and Malawi noted the operationalization of the UN-Women country office in Malawi. Some delegations wished to see results of a functional analysis that would depict how the new regional architecture would operate, including within the context of both the coordination and advocacy roles of the multi-country offices.

22. Responding to questions from new members of the Executive Board as to how decisions on gender markers and the regional architecture were arrived at, the head of the Entity noted the need to update the new members on the procedures and criteria UN-Women followed in that regard. On UN-Women country presence, the resolution by which UN-Women was founded (General Assembly resolution 64/289) as well as the General Assembly resolution 67/226, state that UN-Women need not be physically present in every country, but rather that UN-Women should work and make progress within the existing United Nations system. She stated that the main purpose for the identification of multi-country offices was to strengthen capacity where capacity was minimal and that more information on the implementation of the regional architecture would be provided in the annual report, in June 2013.

23. Regarding comments by Member States on the balance between core and non-core resources, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director remarked that although some balance was attained, resources generally remained very low.

24. She recognized the importance of strengthening the capacity of UN-Women in the area of women, peace and security. She noted, as an example, UN-Women collaboration with the Department of Political Affairs to create a roster of about 200 women mediators in conflict areas. On the issue of the role of UN-Women in humanitarian affairs, it was mentioned that the Entity is developing capacity in the area by working with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and participating in the Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

25. On coordination, the head of the Entity noted that UN-Women had been mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system and particularly the United Nations Development Group through the gender markers. She also discussed the leading role of UN-Women in the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, through which UN-Women works with the regional commissions, for example.

26. Responding to the request for information on the road map for the strategic plan for the period 2014-2017, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director outlined three principles: (a) the continued relevance of the plan; (b) the need to update the plan, taking into account the major events that had occurred in the past 18 months; and (c) the need to streamline the results framework. She expected regular discussions with the Executive Board on the strategic plan would convene beginning March 2013. UN-Women would provide the Executive Board with a conference room paper on the matter in June. She reiterated that it would be a revised version of the strategic plan, 2011-2013, already approved by the Board and not a new plan.

27. As regards reporting specifically on the activities of UN-Women, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director emphasized that markers measuring quality or

the change in gender gaps are not yet available and would be realistically difficult to develop. However, baselines were being developed in Ecuador and Mexico, and such good practices could be shared.

28. In relation to building capacity of United Nations staff on gender equality, the head of the Entity noted that training is offered and conducted by the UN-Women Training Centre in Santo Domingo. The Deputy Director for the Policy and Programme Bureau stated that UN-Women could share the best practices of country teams that have successfully built capacity on gender equality. The Deputy Director of the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau affirmed that the country and regional programming of UN-Women would support the least developed countries and small island developing States, as requested by some Member States.

29. The Executive Board adopted a decision on the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on operational activities (UNW/2013/1).

IV. Informal briefings

Board of Auditors

30. The Director of External Audit of the United Nations Board of Auditors briefed the Executive Board on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, as contained in its report on the United Nations funds and programmes for the financial period ended 31 December 2011 (A/67/319/Add.1).

Harmonized cost recovery

31. The Executive Board was briefed by the Director of Management and Administration and the Chief of Budget within the Division for Management and Administration on the harmonized cost-recovery policy and proposed rate, notably, the background, key principles around which the proposals for cost recovery were based, cost categories, the harmonized conceptual framework, methodology and calculations and next steps.

32. The Executive Board was advised of a joint informal session to be convened within the coming days and a harmonized draft decision, which would be submitted to the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, of UNICEF and of UN-Women through joint facilitation. UN-Women would then proceed with the preparation of the next integrated budget in line with the decision.

Operational response at the country level

33. The Executive Board viewed a short video on the UN-Women global initiative “Safe Cities for Women and Children”, depicting cities across the globe working to increase safety in public spaces. In highlighting results achieved so far, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director stated that “the voices of women, men and young people are echoing throughout the world, saying enough is enough”, and added “there is a worldwide call to action to end the impunity and protect the rights of women and girls to live free of violence and discrimination”. The panellists,

comprising senior officials of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and UNICEF, mentioned the joint programme with UN-Women on “Safe and Sustainable Cities”, currently under way in eight cities: greater Beirut (Lebanon); Dushanbe; metro Manila (the Philippines); Marrakesh (Morocco); Nairobi; Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); San José and Tegucigalpa. UN-Women continues to work as a key partner and catalyst for change in over 20 cities across the world. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director expressed the view that UN-Women had the potential to reach 35 cities in 2013, well beyond the goal in the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013 to reach this number by 2017.

34. Member States thanked the panel for the presentation and congratulated the entities on their work in this area. They underscored the importance of raising awareness among local populations on the issue of violence against women, and welcomed the briefing, especially in light of its relevance to the upcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

V. Closing remarks

35. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director thanked the President for guiding the Executive Board through a successful first regular session and congratulated the Board for the decision on the report on operational activities.

36. The head of the Entity asked that Member States all work together to make UN-Women a stronger organization and expressed support for all of the positive achievements in gender equality that Member States shared. She noted the request for increased UN-Women presence and assured that UN-Women would work together with the United Nations system through the regional and multi-country offices.

37. She thanked all Governments who contributed to and pledged financial support to UN-Women, and asked for the Board’s support while UN-Women continued to widen and deepen its donor base. She noted the success of the PaperSmart initiative and the new Board members’ acceptance of this initiative, the savings from which would be channelled to women on the ground.

38. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director promised that informal briefings would be organized, especially for new members, on various issues, as requested by Member States. She highlighted the need for the Board’s support in preparing for the joint field visit and the joint meeting of the Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, of UNICEF, of UN-Women and of WFP in 2014, which UN-Women would be coordinating. She closed by welcoming the new members of the Board once more and looking forward to continued close collaboration.

39. The President of the Executive Board expressed his appreciation for all of the comments of Member States provided throughout the session and further invited them to provide any other proposals. He looked forward to progress being made on the regional architecture, streamlined results framework and the strategic plan for the period 2014-2017, among others. He called for renewed support for the resource mobilization strategy and efforts of UN-Women and concluded by looking forward to closely cooperating with the members of the Board in 2013.

40. Regarding the upcoming joint deliberations on “The road map to an integrated budget: joint review of the impact of cost definitions and classifications of activities

on the harmonized cost-recovery rates” (DP/FPA/2013/1-E/ICEF/2013/8) (see also para. 42), the President announced that two Vice-Presidents of the Executive Board, from Japan and Mexico, had been selected to co-facilitate the decision on behalf of the Executive Board, along with facilitators from the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and the Executive Board of UNICEF.

41. The first regular session for 2013 was then adjourned.

42. A resumed first regular session of the Executive Board of UN-Women was held at United Nations Headquarters on 8 February 2013, to discuss the road map to an integrated budget.

43. The Vice-President from Mexico chaired the meeting. He noted the cooperation between UNICEF and UN-Women in organizing the resumed first regular session of the UN-Women Executive Board. As a result of the early conclusion of the meeting of the Executive Board of UNICEF on 8 February, UN-Women was provided the opportunity to hold its own resumed first regular session at no cost. The Vice-President from Mexico commended this initiative and thanked UNICEF for the generous offer.

44. The Vice-President noted the joint nature of the decision on the harmonized cost-recovery rates and stated that similar decisions had already been adopted by the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UNICEF at their respective first regular sessions (see annex III, decision 2013/2).

45. The secretary of the Executive Board then introduced the work of the Board for the resumed first regular session. He noted that the Executive Board would consider a draft decision entitled “Road map towards an integrated budget, beginning 2014, and update on cost recovery”.

46. The Executive Board adopted decision 2013/2 on the road map towards an integrated budget, beginning 2014, and update on cost recovery.

47. Following the adoption of the decision, delegations commended UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women for their inter-agency collaboration and encouraged continued cooperation in the future.

48. Delegations commended UN-Women for organizing the resumed first regular session in collaboration with UNICEF. Member States noted that this type of collaboration between entities should be emulated throughout the United Nations system.

49. The resumed first regular session for 2013 was thus concluded.

Annex I

Proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session, 25-27 June 2013

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters
2. Strategic plan
3. Evaluation
4. Other matters

Tentative workplan

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Tuesday, 25 June	10 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.		Opening of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2013 • Adoption of the report on the first regular session of 2013
		2	Strategic plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013: Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director
	3 p.m.- 5 p.m.	2	Strategic plan (<i>continued</i>)
	5 p.m.- 6 p.m.		<i>Introduction of draft decisions</i>
Wednesday, 26 June	10 a.m.- 1 p.m.	3	Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the UN-Women evaluation function, 2012
	1:30 p.m.- 2:45 p.m.		<i>Informal briefing on implementing the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development</i>
	3 p.m.- 6 p.m.		Special briefing on the operational response of UN-Women at the country level <i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Thursday, 27 June	10 a.m.- 11 a.m.		Pledging event
	11 a.m.- 1 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
	3 p.m.- 6 p.m.	4	Other matters
			<i>Adoption of draft decisions</i>
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2013 Closing of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director

Annex II

Draft annual workplan of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for 2013

First regular session: 23 and 24 January 2013 and resumed first regular session: 8 February 2013

Opening of the session

- Statement by the President of the Executive Board
- Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

1. Organizational matters

- Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board for 2013
- Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the first regular session of 2013
- Adoption of the report on the second regular session of 2012 (UNW/2012/17)
- Adoption of the draft annual workplan for 2013
- Adoption of the provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2013

2. Operational activities

- Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on operational activities (UNW/2013/1)

3. Other matters

Adoption of draft decisions

Closing statements

- Statement by the President of the Executive Board
- Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director

Annual session: 25-27 June 2013

Opening of the session

- Statement by the President of the Executive Board
- Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women

1. Organizational matters

- Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2013
- Adoption of the report on the first regular session of 2013 (UNW/2013/2)
- Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2013

2. Progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013
 - Report on the progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013
3. Evaluation
 - Report on the UN-Women evaluation function, 2012
4. Other matters

Adoption of draft decisions

Closing statements

- Statement by the President of the Executive Board
- Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director

Second regular session: 16-18 September 2013

Opening of the session

- Statement by the President of the Executive Board
- Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women

1. Organizational matters
 - Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2013
 - Adoption of the report on the annual session of 2013
 - Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the first regular session of 2014
 - Discussion of the draft annual workplan for 2014
2. Strategic plan, 2014-2017
 - UN-Women strategic plan, 2014-2017
3. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters
 - Integrated budget estimates for UN-Women, 2014-2015
4. Audit matters
 - Annual internal audit report
5. Joint field visits
 - Report of the joint field visit of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/the United Nations Population Fund/the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children's Fund, UN-Women and the World Food Programme to Myanmar.
 - Report of the joint field visit of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/the United Nations Population Fund/the United Nations Office for Project Services and the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children's Fund, UN-Women and the World Food Programme to Thailand.

6. Other matters

Adoption of draft decisions

Closing statements

- Statement by the President of the Executive Board
- Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director

Annex III

Decisions adopted at the first regular session and resumed first regular session for 2013

2013/1

Report on operational activities

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation 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;^a

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

24 January 2013

2013/2

Road map towards an integrated budget, beginning 2014, and update on cost recovery

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* decision 2012/27 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), decision 2012/20 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and decision 2012/7 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), which requested further development of the harmonized conceptual framework and calculation methodology for cost-recovery rates, and also recalls the need to implement General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular chapter II, section D, on ensuring full cost recovery, proportionally from core and non-core funding sources, and providing incentives to increase core funding;

2. *Recognizes* that full cost recovery, proportionally from core and non-core resources, will lead to fewer resources being drawn from core resources to finance the management costs of non-core contributions, and a larger share of core resources being allocated to programme activities, thereby providing incentives for core contributions;

3. *Approves* the harmonized methodology for calculating cost-recovery rates presented in document DP-FPA/2012/1-E/ICEF/2012/AB/L.6,^b which is further developed in document DP-FPA/2013/1-E/ICEF/2013/8, and welcomes the increased transparency and proportionality in the new harmonized framework;

4. *Endorses* a general harmonized cost-recovery rate of 8 per cent for non-core contributions that will be reviewed in 2016, with the possibility of increasing the rate if it is not consistent with the principle of full cost recovery,

^a UNW/2013/1.

^b Joint review by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund on the impact of cost definitions and classification of activities on harmonized cost-recovery rates.

proportionally from core and non-core funding sources, as mandated by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and decides that the review of the cost-recovery rate will take place after the analysis and independent assessment of the reports mentioned in paragraphs 15 and 17 of the present decision;

5. *Underscores* that the principle of harmonized rates will also apply to differentiated cost-recovery rates, with the aim of promoting collaboration among United Nations organizations and avoiding competition in resource mobilization, and further endorses the following differentiated cost-recovery rate structure:

(a) A harmonized 1 per cent reduction for the thematic contributions at the global, regional and country levels for UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF (8 per cent - 1 per cent = 7 per cent), with UN-Women maintaining the rate of 8 per cent as a temporary arrangement;

(b) Maintaining the existing preferential rates for government cost-sharing, South-South contributions and private-sector contributions;

6. *Decides* that existing agreements will be honoured using the previous cost-recovery rates and that new or renewed agreements will comply with the present decision;

7. *Also decides* that, on an exceptional basis and when the urgency of the circumstances requires, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women may consider granting a waiver of the cost-recovery rates on a case-by-case basis, taking into account specific priorities, modalities that incur lower management costs and harmonization goals, and that the Executive Board will be informed of such waivers in the annual financial reports;

8. *Further decides* that the new cost-recovery methodology and related rates will be applied as of 1 January 2014;

9. *Notes* the guiding principles of the integrated budget contained in: (a) the joint note of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF on steps taken towards the integrated budget and the mock-up of the integrated budget, submitted at the second regular session of 2012; and (b) the mock-up of the integrated resource plan, with a harmonized presentation of the cost-recovery amount, contained in table 6 of the joint review by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF;^c

10. *Reiterates* the need for regular consultations with the Executive Board on the integrated budget for UN-Women, 2014-2017, and requests UN-Women to present its informal draft integrated budget, including core and non-core resources, as a part of the discussion of its draft strategic plan, 2014-2017, for review at the annual session of 2013;

11. *Requests* UN-Women to provide fully transparent and consistent costing proposals that will enable contributors to understand those costs that are directly charged to programmes and projects, as well as the cost-recovery rate that is applied;

12. *Stresses* the need for increasingly efficient and transparent use of the cost-recovery resources, and requests that UN-Women provide, in its annual

^c DP-FPA/2013/1-E/ICEF/2013/8.

financial reports to the Executive Board, the amounts received from cost recovery and the use thereof;

13. *Requests* UN-Women to further pursue efficiency and cost effectiveness with a view to reducing management costs, in the effort to minimize the necessary cost-recovery rate, as mandated by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and to include information and analysis in this regard in the midterm review of its integrated budget;

14. *Also requests* UN-Women to prepare an integrated budget proposal, based on the above approved cost-recovery rates and the conceptual framework of the integrated budget;

15. *Requests* UN-Women, in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, to include, in the midterm review of their integrated budgets, information on the implementation of the approved cost-recovery rates, including the approved underlying calculation methodology and the inclusion of each cost category; their actual cost-recovery rates for the two previous financial years; and an analysis of compliance with the principle of full cost recovery, funded proportionally from core and non-core resources, as mandated in General Assembly resolution 67/226;

16. *Also requests* UN-Women, in the context of the midterm reviews of their integrated budgets, in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, to recommend adjustments to the approved cost-recovery rates, as required, to be presented at the annual session of the Executive Board for 2016;

17. *Requests* that an independent and external assessment be performed in 2016 on the consistency and alignment of the new cost-recovery methodology with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/226.

8 February 2013

Note: As a result of a joint facilitation process (with Hinke Nauta representing the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, John Mosoti representing the Executive Board of UNICEF, and Junichi Sumi and Roberto De León Huerta representing the Executive Board of UN-Women), similar decisions were adopted by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS (decision 2013/9, 1 February 2013) and the Executive Board of UNICEF (decision 2013/5, 8 February 2013).