



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 2019 Second Regular Session

Contents

<i>Decision number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
Second Regular Session: 9–10 September 2019		
2019/10	Integrated budget estimates for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium 2020–2021	2
2019/11	Structured Dialogue on Financing the gender equality and women's empowerment results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018–2021	3
2019/12	Joint Review of the existing cost definitions and classifications of activities and associated costs	4
2019/13	Working Methods of the Executive Board	5

Decisions

2019/10

Integrated budget estimates for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium 2020–2021

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the UN-Women integrated budget estimates for 2020–2021 which covers all cost categories and funding sources (both regular and other resources) within a single, consolidated proposal, to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021;
2. *Notes with appreciation* the inclusion of separate budget lines for the independent internal audit and the evaluation office;
3. *Recalls* resolution 72/279 which recognizes the need to address the imbalance between core and non-core resources (regular and other resources), and notes in this regard the declining proportion of UN-Women’s regular resources;
4. *Requests* UN-Women to set realistic targets for resource mobilization;
5. *Approves* 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 \$37.3 million for cost recovery from other resources;
6. *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, and asks UN-Women to further strive for an overall reduction of the ratio of its management costs;
7. *Takes note* of the related Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNW/2019/7) and the recommendations contained therein, as well as the related response of UN-Women to the ACABQ report;
8. *Requests* UN-Women in this regard to include information in the integrated budget estimates for 2022–2023 on the following recommendations:
 - a) continue to review its overall staffing structure and ensure that its staff levels are commensurate with the mandated tasks entrusted to the entity; and prioritize addressing the current trend regarding the increase in UN-Women non-staff personnel both in headquarters and in the field;
 - b) keep under review the distribution of posts between headquarters and field locations and adjust those as necessary to ensure that the distribution is on the basis of a thorough analysis of UN-Women’s mandate and functions, and also requests UN-Women to provide information on the roles of UN-Women personnel at headquarters and in field locations;
 - c) continue to improve gender balance and work towards equitable geographical distribution of UN-Women’s staff members;
9. *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”;

10. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to present a comprehensive update of change management initiatives under way, including related resource implications aimed at increasing effectiveness and efficiency, in the integrated budget estimates for 2022–2023.

10 September 2019

2019/11 Structured Dialogue on Financing the gender equality and women’s empowerment results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018–2021

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report UNW/2019/8 and encourages UN-Women to continue engaging in a structured dialogue with all Member States throughout the year, with a view to tracking, assessing and following up on the level of funding it receives in comparison to the approved integrated budget, as well as the predictability, flexibility and alignment of the financial resources provided for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021;
2. *Requests* UN-Women to continue its efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability and in this regard to continue to provide information on its programme activities, within the proceedings of the Executive Board;
3. *Encourages* all Member States in a position to do so, to increase their voluntary contributions to UN-Women, especially to its regular resources, and to prioritize flexible and timely resources aligned with the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and, if possible, through multi-year commitments;
4. *Recalls* decision 2016/4, paragraph 10, and encourages UN-Women to continue to strengthen its efforts to diversify its funding base, including with the private sector and other stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;
5. *Encourages* UN-Women to continue playing a central role in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, including in funding mechanisms, such as pooled funding;
6. *Takes note* of UN-Women’s intention to establish thematic funding windows, in alignment with the funding compact, the preferential cost-recovery inter-agency policy and a harmonized approach with other United Nations funds and programmes; and requests UN-Women to provide further analysis of and information on specific plans in this regard within the Structured Dialogue on Financing, taking into consideration lessons learned from other funds and programmes and UN-Women’s mandate as a composite entity;
7. *Welcomes* steps taken by UN-Women, in collaboration with United Nations Development System (UNDS) entities and Member States, to follow up on commitments of the Funding Compact; and encourages UN-Women to continue dialogue with all UNDS entities and Member States to jointly make progress towards compliance with their mutual and interdependent Funding Compact commitments;

8. *Requests* UN-Women, as part of its reports on Structured Dialogue on Financing, to present harmonized annual reporting on implementation of its entity-specific commitments and contribution to the collective commitments of the Funding Compact, including adding annual milestones, examples of country-level impact, and a forward-looking narrative outlining intended progress for those milestones not yet realized, ahead of the second regular session 2020 of the UN-Women Executive Board;

9. *Requests* UN-Women to further review the format and content of the report on the Structured Dialogue on Financing with a view to aligning resources, including programmatic, with expected results as set out in the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, taking into account annual information on regular and other resources, financial gaps and projections as it relates to specific organizational or programmatic objectives and results, as well as proposed solutions, and to present by the first regular session of 2020, options on improving the quality of the Structured Dialogue on Financing.

10 September 2019

2019/12

Joint review of the existing cost definitions and classifications of activities and associated costs

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the analysis contained in the joint review of the existing cost definitions and classifications of activities and associated costs (DP/FPA-ICEF-UNW/2019/1);

2. *Reiterates* decision 2018/6 and paragraph 35 of resolution 71/243 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

3. *Endorses* recommendations 1 and 2 for further alignment contained in the present report for application effective in their integrated budgets, beginning in 2022, and requests UN-Women, working with the UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS and UNICEF, to implement standardized terminology and formatting of integrated budget proposals and financial information in the annual reports, recognizing that while all cost categories and functional clusters will be shown, not all will apply;

4. *Takes note* of recommendation 3, which proposes the creation of separate cost classification line items in the integrated resources plan, to report on and obtain separate appropriations for independent oversight and assurance activities, as well as resident coordinator cost-sharing contributions, and *welcomes* additional information on this at the first regular session 2020, that enable further analysis prior to potential adoption of this recommendation.

10 September 2019

2019/13
Working Methods of the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

1. *Welcomes* the joint response prepared by the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);
2. *Requests* the secretariat of the Executive Board of UN-Women, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UNICEF, to present to the Executive Board for deliberation and consideration at the first regular session 2020 an exemplary annual programme of work, including informal briefings, for each of the three options presented in the joint response, with corresponding explanatory narratives on the envisaged changes and their expected effect on Board oversight, effectiveness and efficiency, as well as further elaboration on the listed issues of joint relevance and interest to all Boards.

10 September 2019