



## ***Joint cross regional Statement***

### **Executive Board of UNFPA**

### **Annual report on the UNFPA evaluation function 2024, Agenda Item 16**

### **ANNUAL SESSION 2025**

**June 2024, New York**

Mister President, Distinguished Members of the Board, Dear colleagues,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Luxemburg, Moldova, Norway, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and my own country, Switzerland.

We thank the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office for the 2024 annual report on the evaluation function and welcome the constructive management response submitted by UNFPA.

We commend the IEO for maintaining a **strong, strategic and adaptive evaluation function** during another complex year. In particular, we note the **high achievement** across most key performance indicators, including

- full implementation of planned decentralized evaluations for the **third consecutive year**,
- 98% implementation of management response actions—the **highest rate** in a decade—
- and the consistent use of evaluations in new country programme development.

These outcomes reflect both the robustness of the evaluation function and the growing organizational culture of **evidence-based decision-making**.

We further appreciate **management's acknowledgment** of these achievements and its **demonstrated commitment** to making a sustained investment in human resources for monitoring and evaluation.



Indeed, we are encouraged by the consistent investment in evaluation, with 2024 marking **the highest absolute spending to date**. However, we note that evaluation expenditures still fall below the revised target range of 1–1.6% of programme budget. We encourage UNFPA to continue its efforts to meet this target, including through the development of a well-funded **Evaluation Pooled Fund**.

We expect UNFPA senior management to continue to provide strong support to the IEO in the coming strategic period. It is more important than ever **to protect the evaluation function** and to continue to strengthen the capacity of the decentralized evaluation function and humanitarian evaluations.

We take note of management's clear support for the IEO's innovation efforts—particularly in the **responsible integration of artificial intelligence**—and we applaud the IEO for its leadership in this evolving area. We also value its active contributions to inter-agency evaluations, UNEG, and the System-Wide Evaluation Office.

We strongly support the continued **prioritization of youth engagement** in evaluation and we recognize the **strategic influence** of recent centralized evaluations, including the evaluation of the Strategic Plan 2022–2025, which is shaping the design of the upcoming Strategic Plan.

Similarly, evaluations of **UNFPA's work in data, population dynamics, and youth programming** have led to concrete institutional changes—such as the definition of a new outcome. We are looking forward to the results of the evaluation of UNFPA support to **the integration of the principles of 'leaving no one behind' and 'reaching those left furthest behind first'** in 2026.

Let me close by reaffirming our shared commitment to a strong, independent, and well-resourced evaluation function at UNFPA.

At a time of reform and change, decisions **need to be informed by the evidence**. The good relationship between the IEO and UNFPA management continues to drive



**progress, accountability, evidence-based decision-making and learning—**contributing to the effectiveness of both the organization and the broader United Nations development system.

We would also like to pay tribute to the **excellent work** of his director, Marco Segone, and are confident that his successor will demonstrate the same **professionalism, integrity and dedication** in leading the IEO in its new location in Nairobi.

I Thank you.