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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Annual session 2025

2 to 5 June 2025, New York Item 1 of the provisional agenda **Organizational matters**

Provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents and workplan

Note by the Executive Board Secretariat

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Annotations and list of documents

Item 1 Organizational matters

Under this item, the Executive Board will adopt the agenda and workplan for the annual session as presented by the Secretary of the Board. The Board will also approve the report of its first regular session 2025. The draft report was shared with Board members for comments; the final version reflects the feedback received.

Documentation:

Provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents and workplan (DP/2025/L.2)

Report of the first regular session 2025 (DP/2025/8)

Decisions adopted at the first regular session 2025 (DP/2025/9)

Joint segment

Item 2

Update on implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system

Pursuant to Executive Board decision 2019/4, and subsequent decisions 2022/14 and 2023/6, UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS will provide an update on the status of implementation of the General Assembly resolutions 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and General Assembly resolution 76/4 on the review of the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding arrangements. This is within the scope of the General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on the update of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, including annexes illustrating progress in relations to the United Nations development system reform checklist.

Item 3 Internal audit and investigation

Under this item, the Executive Board will have before it the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation. The structure and content of the reports are harmonized with each other and the annual reports of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Pursuant to decision 2016/13 of the Executive Board, the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations submits the present report summarizing the internal audit, advisory services and investigation activities conducted by the Office in 2024. The report highlights audit and investigation findings, performance, budget and staffing. It also provides an overall opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of UNDP governance, risk management and control processes in accordance with Executive Board decisions 2015/13 of June 2015, 2016/13 of June 2016, and 2018/13 of June 2018. The management response to this report is presented separately (in accordance with document DP/2008/16/Rev.1).

In response to Executive Board decisions 2015/2, 2015/13, 2022/15, 2022/22 and earlier pertinent Board decisions, the Director of the UNFPA Office of Audit and Investigation Services (OAIS) presents the report on the internal audit, investigation and advisory services for the year ending 31 December 2024.

The report includes information on (a) the OAIS mandate; (b) the internal audit opinion on the governance, risk management and internal controls of UNFPA; (c) the statement on the independence of OAIS and conformance to professional standards; (d) OAIS resources for 2024; (e) results of the implementation of the risk-based audit plan for 2024; (f) internal audit activities and results; (g) information on public disclosure of internal audit reports; and (h) investigations, including information on the nature of cases received, investigated, and actions taken; (i) advisory services rendered in 2024; (j) other activities undertaken in 2024; and (k) a suggested way forward for the coming year and beyond.

Annexes to this report, as well as the management response to the OAIS and OAC annual reports (DP/FPA/2025/CRP.2), and the terms of reference of the UNFPA Oversight Advisory Committee, are available on the UNFPA website

The Internal Audit and Investigations Group of UNOPS submits to the Executive Board its annual report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period 1 January to 31 December 2024.

As requested by the Executive Board in its decision 2015/13 concerning internal audit and oversight, this report includes: (a) an opinion, based on the scope of work undertaken, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the UNOPS framework of governance, risk management and control; (b) a concise summary of work and the criteria that support the opinion; (c) a statement of conformance with the internal audit standards being adhered to; and (d) a view on whether resourcing of the function is appropriate, sufficient and effectively deployed to achieve the desired internal audit and investigation coverage. The management response to this report is presented separately.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on the internal audit and investigation reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Documentation:

UNDP: Annual report of the Office of Audit and Investigations on internal audit and investigation activities in 2024 (DP/2025/10)

UNFPA: Report of the Office of Audit and Investigation Services on UNFPA internal audit and investigation activities in 2024 (DP/FPA/2025/6)

Annual report of the UNFPA Oversight Advisory Committee (DP/FPA/2025/6/Add.1)

UNOPS: Annual report of the Internal Audit and Investigations Group on internal audit and investigations activities in 2024 (DP/OPS/2025/4)

Item 4 Ethics

Under this item, the Executive Board will have before it the reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Pursuant to decision 2008/37 of the Executive Board, the UNDP Ethics Office submits the present report covering its activities in 2024. In accordance with the Secretary-General's bulletin on United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes (ST/SGB/2007/11), the Ethics Panel of the United Nations reviewed the report electronically and at its 175th session on 13 February 2025. This is the seventeenth annual report presented by the Ethics Office since its establishment in 2007.

The 2024 report of the UNFPA Ethics Office is submitted to the Executive Board pursuant to paragraph 9 of Executive Board decision 2010/17: Reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS. In accordance with the Secretary-General's bulletin entitled United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes (ST/SGB/2007/11 and as amended ST/SGB/2007/11/Amend.1), the report was reviewed by the Ethics Panel of the United Nations in February 2025 and presented to the UNFPA Executive Director.

The report summarizes the activities of the UNFPA Ethics Office during 2024 and describes trends in the mandated areas of its work. It also provides recommendations to management to further

strengthen the organizational culture of integrity and compliance. A management response to the report (DP/FPA/2025/CRP.3) is available on the UNFPA website.

The UNOPS report on the activities of the UNOPS Ethics Office is submitted to the Executive Board in accordance with paragraph 9 of decision 2010/17 whereby the UNOPS Ethics Office is requested to submit its report to the Executive Board at the annual session. In accordance with section 3(h) of the Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2007/11, the UNOPS Ethics Office provides this report annually to the Executive Director. Additionally, pursuant to 'United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes' (ST/SGB/2007/11/Amend.1, section 5.4), the Ethics Panel of the United Nations reviewed the draft report during its 174th meeting on 14 January 2025. The UNOPS Audit Advisory Committee reviewed a draft of the report in January 2025. The report covers the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. This marks the sixteenth annual report of the Ethics Office since its establishment in 2009.

The management response to this report is presented separately.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on the reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Documentation:

UNDP: Activities of the UNDP Ethics Office in 2024 (DP/2025/11)

UNFPA: Report of the Ethics Office 2024 (DP/FPA/2025/7)

UNOPS: Activities of the UNOPS Ethics Office in 2024 (DP/OPS/2025/5)

Item 5

Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

Under this item, UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS will provide an update on the actions each organization is taking to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. Pursuant to decision 2024/11, these updates include a brief synthesis outlining collective progress and shared challenges, and inform how to better align reporting with future protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment action plans.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on the joint update on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

Item 6 Addressing racism and racial discrimination

In its decision 2024/10, the Executive Board decided to add an agenda item on addressing racism and racial discrimination for information at the first regular session 2025 and for decision at the annual session 2025. UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS will present updates on the organizations' individual efforts to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit issued in the "Review of measures and mechanisms for addressing racism and racial discrimination in United Nations system organizations: managing for achieving organizational effectiveness" (JIU/NOTE/2022/1/Rev.1).

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Item 7

Update on the assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions

In its decision 2024/12, the Executive Board decided to include an item for decision on the progress of the consideration of the Joint Inspection Unit report on the 'Review of governance and oversight of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, and UN-Women' (JIU/REP/2023/7) on the agendas of every formal session, until decided otherwise. Furthermore, in its decision 2025/2, the Executive Board requested that the working group related to this report should provide regular updates to the participating Boards, as necessary.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Item 8 Field visits

The Executive Board will consider the report on the Executive Board field visit to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (2 to 6 December 2024). The report was written by the delegation of Executive Board members who participated in the field visit. The report reflects the delegation's assessment of the visit, including observations, key findings, recommendations, and conclusions as a result of the visit to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation:

Report on the Executive Board field visit to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (DP/FPA/OPS/2025/CRP.1)

UNDP segment

Item 9

Annual report of the Administrator

The 2022–2025 Strategic Plan set UNDP's course toward expanding people's choices for a fairer, more sustainable future, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. This 2024 Annual Report of the Administrator reviews progress three years into the plan. It highlights how UNDP is delivering high-impact, integrated solutions to complex development challenges—maximizing results for every dollar spent. As preparations begin for the next strategic plan, UNDP continues to learn, adapt, and stay agile in responding to today's needs while anticipating tomorrow's opportunities.

This information note presents UNDP's assessment of its accountability framework against the updated 2023 reference framework of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), as outlined in the JIU report Review of accountability frameworks in United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2023/3), and in line with Executive Board decision 2024/13. The annex to the note contains UNDP's revised Accountability System Policy, updated in response to the assessment and reflecting recent improvements and developments.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Documentation:

Cumulative review of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and annual report of the Administrator for 2024 (DP/2025/12)

Report of UNDP on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2024 (DP/2025/12/Add.1)

Statistical annex (DP/2025/12/Add.2)

Item 10 Gender equality at UNDP

Under this item, UNDP will present its annual report of the Administrator on the implementation of the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy in 2024. Highlighting the third year of the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy, 2022-2025, it presents progress against the six UNDP signature solutions toward improving women's lives, providing access to essential services and empowering women economically, contributing to poverty alleviation and helping to promote sustainable development.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation:

Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2022-2025 (DP/2025/13)

Item 11 UNDP evaluation

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of UNDP will present its annual report on evaluation for 2024, as well as the evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

The annual report on evaluation, 2024, provides an overview of evaluation activities undertaken by UNDP, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and the United Nations Volunteers programme. It presents key lessons learned from decentralized, thematic, and country programme evaluations, alongside syntheses and insights from the *Reflections* series. The report documents the efforts of IEO to strengthen evaluation capacity, enhance decentralized evaluations, and improve their quality. It includes highlights from the UNDP evaluation policy review, advancements in knowledge management, and a new engagement strategy aimed at increasing the use of evaluations. The report underscores the global leadership of the Independent Evaluation Office in evaluation partnerships through initiatives such as the Global Sustainable Development Goals Synthesis Coalition, the Global Evaluation Initiative, and the United Nations Evaluation Group, reinforcing the commitment of UNDP to evidence-based decision-making and strategic learning.

The IEO also assessed the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, evaluating the most significant changes shaped by its vision and influence on the strategic positioning of UNDP amidst United Nations development system reform and a changing global development landscape. The evaluation focused on the "directions of change" of the Strategic Plan – structural transformation, leaving no one behind, and building resilience – alongside strategic enablers: digitalization, innovation, and sustainable finance, as well as key efforts to enhance organizational efficiency and effectiveness. The report is accompanied by a management response.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Documentation:

Annual report on evaluation, 2024 (DP/2025/14)

Evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (DP/2025/15)

Management response to the evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (DP/2025/16)

Item 12 UNDP country programmes and related matters

Under this item, the Executive Board will be asked to: (a) review and approve, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/7, the country programme document for: Ethiopia; (b) take note

of the first six-month extension of the country programme for South Africa, and the first one-year extension of the country programme for South Sudan; and (c) approve the fourth one-year extension of the country programme for Burkina Faso.

Documentation:

Country programme document for Ethiopia (DP/DCP/ETH/5)

Extensions of country programmes (DP/2025/17)

Item 13 United Nations Capital Development Fund

Under this item, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) presents the cumulative review of the UNCDF Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and the annual report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2024. It examines progress in three outcome areas: (a) accelerated, inclusive, diversified, green economic transformation; (b) increased flows of public and private finance; and (c) strengthened market systems and public and private financing mechanisms. An analysis of UNCDF institutional effectiveness and key evaluation findings is also presented.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Documentation:

Cumulative review of the UNCDF Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and annual report on results achieved by UNCDF in 2024 (DP/2025/18)

Item 14 United Nations Volunteers

Under this item, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme presents its annual report of the Administrator. The report highlights the achievements of the UNV programme during 2024, aligned with the programme's 2022–2025 Strategic Framework. It includes performance indicators, information on United Nations system entities hosting United Nations Volunteers, and statistical and financial overviews (Annexes I–IV, available on the Executive Board website).

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Documentation:

United Nations Volunteers: annual report of the Administrator (DP/2025/19)

UNFPA segment

Item 15

Annual report of the Executive Director

Under this item, the Executive Board will consider the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025. It analyses the progress made in achieving the results of the UNFPA Strategic Plan during the third year of its implementation. It is accompanied by the 2024 statistical and financial review which provides details of UNFPA expenditures. Also available is the UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in 2024.

In response to Executive Board decision 2024/18, UNFPA, in an information note, provides an assessment of its updated accountability framework against the 2023 JIU reference framework (JIU/REP/2023/3). It outlines the updated framework's alignment with JIU benchmarks, highlights key improvements made since 2007, and presents the updated UNFPA Accountability Framework reflecting necessary adjustments.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Documentation:

Progress report on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (DP/FPA/2025/4) (Part I)

Statistical and financial review, 2024 (DP/FPA/2025/4 (Part I)/Add.1)

UNFPA Report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in 2024 (DP/FPA/2025/4) (Part II)

Item 16 UNFPA evaluation

In accordance with the revised evaluation policy of UNFPA (DP/FPA/2024/1) and relevant Executive Board decisions, the annual report on the evaluation function for 2024 (DP/FPA/2025/5) provides information on the performance of the evaluation function at centralized and decentralized levels and the contribution to coherence among evaluation functions across the United Nations and to national evaluation capacity development. It also presents the 2025 programme of work and budget for the Independent Evaluation Office. The UNFPA management commentaries to the annual report on the evaluation function (DP/FPA/2024/CRP.5) are available on the UNFPA website.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Documentation:

Annual report on the evaluation function, 2024: Report of the Director, Evaluation Office (DP/FPA/2025/5)

Item 17

Country programmes and related matters

The Executive Board is asked to approve, in accordance with decision 2014/7, the country programme for Ethiopia, and to take note of the country programme extension for South Africa.

Documentation:

Country programme document for Ethiopia (DP/FPA/CPD/ETH/10)

Extensions of country programmes (DP/FPA/2025/8)

UNOPS segment

Item 18

Annual report of the Executive Director

Under this item, UNOPS will present its progress report on implementation of the restated UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, endorsed by decision 2023/16. The report accounts for the realization of ambitions for impact and achievement of operational and management results. It also presents lessons learned and highlights areas for tactical course correction. As part of UNOPS response to the Executive Board's requests for more systematic reporting on contributions to partner objectives and global goals, the report, inter alia, is supplemented by comprehensive portfolio analysis, external systematic evaluations, and internal project case studies and country reports.

Under this item, in line with General Assembly resolution 59/267 and 62/246, the Executive Board will also have before it the UNOPS annual report on the recommendations of the JIU in 2024. The

report presents the response of UNOPS management to the JIU recommendations and provides an update on the status of implementation of prior-year recommendations.

In response to the Executive Board decision 2024/21, under this item, UNOPS will report to the Executive Board on its assessment of its accountability framework against the updated 2023 JIU reference accountability framework, as presented in the JIU report on the review of accountability frameworks in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2023/3), and the adjustments to it

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Documentation:

Progress report on implementation of the restated UNOPS Strategic Plan, 2022-2025 (DP/OPS/2025/6)

Report on the accountability framework of UNOPS (DP/OPS/2025/7)

Item 19

Formative evaluation of the process innovation and digitalization programme

Under this item, the Executive Board will have before it the external formative evaluation of the Process Innovation and Digitalization Programme (PID), commissioned by the UNOPS Internal Audit and Investigations Group, pursuant to decision 2024/28. UNOPS Management will present its response to this evaluation, as well as the next steps for the PID Programme.

The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision on this item.

Documentation:

Formative evaluation of the process innovation and digitalization programme

Item 20 Other matters

The Executive Board is expected to adopt the 14 decisions being considered during the annual session 2025.

TENTATIVE WORKPLAN (as of 10 February 2025, check the Executive Board website for the latest versions) EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS ANNUAL SESSION 2025 (2 to 5 June 2025, New York)

Day/Date	Time	Item	Subject
Monday, 2 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
2 duit	7 p.m.		 Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the session Adoption of the report of the first regular session 2025
			JOINT SEGMENT
		3	INTERNAL AUDIT AND INVESTIGATION • Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on internal audit and investigation activities in 2024, and management responses
		4	ETHICS
			 Reports of the ethics offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on activities in 2024, and management responses
		6	ADDRESSING RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
	3 – 6:00 p.m.	5	PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT
		2	UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS ON THE REPOSITIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM
		7	UPDATE ON THE ASSESSMENT OF HOW THE EXECUTIVE BOARD EXECUTES ITS GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS
Tuesday, 3 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		UNFPA SEGMENT
3 dune	1 p.m.		STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		15	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
			Progress report on the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2022-2025
			 UNFPA report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2024
			Statistical and financial review, 2024
	3 – 6:00 p.m.		UNOPS SEGMENT
			STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
		18	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
			 Progress report on the implementation of the UNOPS Restated Strategic Plan, 2022-2025
			 UNOPS report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2024
		19	FORMATIVE EVALUATION OF THE PROCESS INNOVATION AND DIGITALIZATION PROGRAMME

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Wednesday, 4 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT
4 June	r p.m.		INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR
		9	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
			 Cumulative review of the Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and annual report of the Administrator for 2024
			 UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2024 Statistical annex, 2024
	3 – 6:00 p.m.		UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)
		11	UNDP EVALUATION
			 Annual report on evaluation, 2024, and management commentaries Evaluation of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and management response
			UNFPA SEGMENT (cont'd)
		16	UNFPA EVALUATION
			Annual report on the evaluation function 2024, and management commentaries
Thursday,	10 a.m.–		UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)
5 June	1 p.m.	13	UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
			 Cumulative review of the Strategic Framework, 2022-2025, and annual report on results for 2024
		14	UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS
			United Nations Volunteers: annual report of the Administrator
		10	GENDER EQUALITY AT UNDP • Annual report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy, 2022-2025

		UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)
3 – 6:00 p.m.	12	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS
		 Presentation and approval of country programme documents Extensions of country programmes
		UNFPA SEGMENT (cont'd)
	17	UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS
		 Presentation and approval of country programme documents Extensions of country programmes
		JOINT SEGMENT (cont'd)
	8	FIELD VISITS
		Report of the field visit of the Executive Board
	20	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of decisions
	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
		 Adoption of the tentative workplan for the second regular session 2025 Closing of the session