



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

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Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters

Report on the second regular session of 2021, 14 to 15 September 2021¹

I. Election of the Bureau

1. During the second regular session of the Executive Board, held from 14 to 15 September 2021, primarily virtually and partly in hybrid format due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Alhaji Fanday Turay, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, was elected President for the remainder of 2021 (representing the African States) after the previous President and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, Alie Kabba, completed his tour in New York.

II. Organizational matters

2. The Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session ([UNW/2021/L.4](#)) and approved the report on its annual session held from 21 to 23 June 2021 ([UNW/2021/5](#)). The Board approved the draft annual workplan for 2022 ([UNW/2021/CRP.6](#)), as well as the provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session of 2022 ([UNW/2021/CRP.7](#)) to be held from 14 to 15 February 2022. Noting efforts for harmonization with other Executive Boards, the Secretary of the Board added that UN-Women is consulting with the Bureau to reschedule the update on sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment from the annual session 2022 to the first regular session 2022.

3. The Executive Board adopted three decisions: Decision 2021/5 – United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025; Decision 2021/6 – Integrated Budget Estimates for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium 2022–2023; and Decision 2021/7 – Structured Dialogue on Financing the Results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018–2021, which are contained in the annex to this report.

¹ Note: This document was processed in its entirety by UN-Women.



III. Opening statements

4. The newly elected President of the Executive Board opened the session by welcoming the appointment of the incoming Executive Director Sima Sami Bahous and congratulating Special Representative of the Secretary General Pramila Patten on her appointment as Acting Executive Director and on leading UN-Women during the transition. He stressed the importance of UN-Women's new strategic plan as the Entity enters its second decade, and expressed his gratitude to UN-Women staff in Afghanistan and Haiti for their continued support for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in emergencies. The President added that, just like COVID-19, the recent events in Afghanistan and Haiti had exacerbated underlying gender inequalities disproportionately affecting women and girls, and highlighted the urgent need to accelerate progress and achieve gender equality for women and girls everywhere.

5. In her opening statement, the Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director welcomed the newly elected President and thanked the former and interim Presidents. She thanked the Members of the Bureau for conducting their work as regional representatives, chairing the Board's many meetings, supporting the Board in its decision-making and helping it to arrive at a consensus every time.

6. The Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director noted that devastating crises in Afghanistan, Haiti and many other countries around the world are having a direct impact on the rights and freedoms of women and girls. She highlighted how these crises demonstrate the fragility of the gains made and how quickly progress can be reversed, while adding that the vital importance of UN-Women's mandate has never been so clearly demonstrated as during recent months and years. She expressed how proud she was of the Entity's decision to maintain its presence and continue delivering services in Afghanistan despite the current security situation, to call for the inclusion of women in the governance structure of Afghanistan's new leadership, and to work with its partners to continue providing life-saving services to Afghan women and girls. The Acting Executive Director of the Entity emphasized the urgent need to preserve and protect women's participation in public life, including in the provision of humanitarian aid, so that Afghan women continue to have access to sexual, reproductive and maternal health, nutrition, education and protection services. She noted that UN-Women's strong and unwavering response to these emergencies must set the bar for the global community on the need for the rights of women and girls to be a central and non-negotiable component of peace, recovery and sustainable development – from Haiti to Mali, from Myanmar to Somalia, from Syria to Venezuela.

7. On COVID-19, the Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director expressed her solidarity with countries that are struggling with new and continuing waves of infection. She stressed that UN-Women continues to advocate for accessible vaccines in all countries and for fiscal response packages and government stimulus packages to support women affected by the pandemic's economic and social fallout. She added that laws and policy reforms are needed to address the care crisis and tackle girls' education and access to technology. The Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director further highlighted how the United Nations Development Programme/UN-Women Global COVID-19 Gender Response Tracker has provided critical insights on the actions that governments have taken to support women and mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic, noting that the tracker will be releasing new data in October. In addition, she announced that UN-Women will be launching a Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice, designed to influence policy debates on how to shape a more equal and sustainable post-COVID world. She also stressed that when addressing the socioeconomic aspects of the crisis, focus must

remain on the shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls, which includes an increase in conflict-related sexual violence affecting the functioning of protection mechanisms, particularly women-led service providers.

8. Referring to the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025, the Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director remarked that it is an ambitious and visionary plan that represents and incorporates the feedback received from all Member States. She highlighted that the strategic plan was developed through an unprecedented number of formal and informal consultations and an exhaustive analysis of the economic, political, social and demographic trends that will impact gender equality over the next 5–10 years. Additionally, she explained that UN-Women believes that the plan is reflective of its vision, its mandate, and the change it seeks to drive in the lives of women and girls.

9. In terms of revenue, the Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director reflected upon a strong 2020; the Entity set new records for both regular and other resources – with 15 of its top 20 donors increasing their contributions – and experienced the largest growth in regular resources of any of the New York-based UN entities. She expressed her gratitude to all donors for showing this level of trust and support, which is bolstered by the 10th consecutive unqualified Financial Statements audit opinion.

10. In closing, the Acting Executive Director thanked Member States for their guidance throughout this journey and their leadership in the important work that lies ahead. She noted how much can be achieved by working together in solidarity and partnership and expressed her hope that this continues during the implementation of the strategic plan to deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve gender equality.

IV. Strategic plan

11. During her presentation of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025, Deputy Executive Director Anita Bhatia called it balanced, nuanced, bold and ambitious and noted that it had taken into account feedback from all Member States and responds to the urgent and deep-rooted challenges that women and girls continue to face across the world. She reiterated that the strategic plan is a global framework document and an operational tool for UN-Women to implement its mandate at the global, regional and country levels. She also noted that it will be implemented through country-specific Strategic Notes, which are developed in consultation with respective governments, are in alignment with both national priorities and the UN Reform, and are fully coherent with the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. She further noted that the strategic plan is informed by the changing global context and builds upon UN-Women’s proven expertise over the last ten years. The Deputy Executive Director explained that the plan ensures that UN-Women is fit for purpose and remains agile, flexible and adaptable as it supports countries in responding to emerging challenges. She went on to say that the ‘leave no one behind’ concept – the foundation of the 2030 Agenda – is therefore the guiding principle of the new plan.

12. The Deputy Executive Director stated that the strategic plan will aim for greater impact at scale by: seeking to tackle the root causes of gender inequality, maintaining a focus on UN-Women’s four key thematic areas, namely (1) Governance and Participation in Public Life; (2) Economic Empowerment and Resilience; (3) Ending Violence Against Women; and (4) Women, Peace, Security, Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction; highlighting the gender dimension in pressing global challenges such as climate change mitigation and digitalization; and leveraging UN-Women’s unique composite mandate in a more integrated way. She added that

UN-Women seeks to increase financing for gender equality, including by expanding its partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs) and the private sector. Additionally, she mentioned that the Entity seeks to deepen and broaden its coordination and partnerships work with a whole-of-society approach to drive transformative results. As an example, she highlighted that UN-Women has worked with its UN System partners in the design of the strategic plan, which has resulted in common and complementary indicators, capturing joint work towards the achievement of global goals. Furthermore, the Deputy Executive Director noted that UN-Women will work across generations with men and boys and with non-traditional partners to dramatically expand support for gender equality. She explained that the Entity will mobilize partners towards the full, effective and accelerated implementation of international legal and policy frameworks for gender equality and women's empowerment.

13. Upon opening the floor for delegations, Member States congratulated the new President on his election and welcomed the appointment of the third UN-Women Executive Director. Member States also thanked the Acting Executive Director of UN-Women for her comprehensive update and commended her for leading the Entity in the interim.

14. Discussing UN-Women's Strategic Plan 2022–2025, numerous delegations and regional groups welcomed the new plan and expressed appreciation for the Entity's extensive and inclusive consultations during its development. Delegations thanked UN-Women for listening to and integrating Member States' inputs, though some expressed their disappointment that the plan still includes terminology that has not been intergovernmentally agreed. Several speakers stressed the need for UN-Women to strictly adhere to its mandate and to pursue its new strategic plan with full respect for sovereignty and national ownership while taking into account the diverse levels of development and the different circumstances and priorities of each country. A number of delegations also stressed the importance of allocating adequate resources to the strategic plan and for it to maintain a strong development-based approach. Additionally, speakers welcomed UN-Women's commitment to further deepening its strategic partnerships.

15. With regards to COVID-19, Member States acknowledged UN-Women for its action in placing gender equality at the heart of the UN COVID-19 response and commended staff worldwide for their determination and the progress made in implementing the current strategic plan despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. Delegations reiterated that COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and disproportionately affected women and girls, while stressing that an inclusive socioeconomic recovery must be centred around gender equality and women's empowerment.

16. On Afghanistan, Member States expressed appreciation for UN-Women's rapid response and its commitment to stay and deliver for women and girls in the country. One delegation underscored the need to preserve the gains of the past two decades and to continue promoting the empowerment of women and girls, while urging the Entity to coordinate and collaborate with other UN agencies so that the entire UN presence in Afghanistan has full capacity to deliver for the protection and empowerment of women and girls.

17. In a joint-statement on the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, several Member States noted the high-degree of interlinkage and complementarities across the UN Development System, particularly among the New York-based Funds and Programmes and UN-Women, as reflected in their strategic plans and integrated results and resources framework. They commended the agencies' efforts to identify areas for joint engagement and expressed the expectation of such agencies to monitor

and report on results achieved collectively and to use the mid-term review of the strategic plans as an opportunity to take stock and adjust partnership modalities and agency-specific contributions in areas of joint engagement. Another joint statement similarly encouraged UN-Women to work in close cooperation with other agencies, funds and programmes.

18. In response to the comments and statements made by delegations, the Deputy Executive Director reiterated that the strategic plan will be implemented in consultation with national authorities and in line with countries' priorities, as outlined in the plan itself. She stressed UN-Women's commitment to prioritize and advance quality gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data, as they are vital for informing policy debates and strengthening standards and global norms. The Director, ad interim, of the Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division added that the Entity is committed to implementing the strategic plan in a harmonized way and that it is actively working with its sister agencies to jointly monitor and report on common and complementary indicators. The Director of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division emphasized that the Entity continues to enhance coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency in the operational activities of the UN System, especially as it pertains to gender equality and women's empowerment. She reaffirmed that advancing women's socioeconomic empowerment is a top priority for UN-Women, while also stressing the importance of recognizing the scale of the care economy, and reducing and redistributing unpaid parental domestic work.

V. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

19. The Executive Board was presented with the 2022–2023 integrated budget. To deliver on its commitments during the first two years of the new strategic plan, UN-Women proposed an integrated budget with estimated total voluntary contributions of \$1 billion, reflecting a zero-growth institutional budget. This includes a projected contribution of \$400 million for regular resources and \$600 million for other resources. In her introductory remarks, Deputy Executive Director Anita Bhatia highlighted that the integrated budget proposal is guided by UN-Women's overarching ambition to continue its business transformation and achieve impact at scale, as outlined in the strategic plan. The Deputy Executive Director added that the Entity will focus its efforts on influencing more and different actors and partners in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Director, ad interim, of the Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division delivered a presentation focused on the context that has underpinned the drafting of the integrated budget for 2022–2023, the main elements of the institutional budget, and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budget Questions (ACABQ).

20. After opening the floor, one Member State expressed support for the proposed integrated budget but cautioned against overly optimistic resource projections, particularly with respect to regular resources. It specifically noted that while the 2022–2023 plan included a 3.8-per cent increase over the 2020–2021 plan, the 2022–2023 proposed level for regular resources were 29.8 per cent higher than 2019–2020. In this regard, the delegation supported the ACABQ recommendation to strengthen fundraising and increase engagement with the private sector. It commended UN-Women for efficiency gains of \$1,361,000 for 2019–2020 and strongly supported efforts to identify and quantify efficiency gains as a way to determine accountability and justify requests for increased funding when donors were looking for effective ways to invest resources. Another Member State reiterated its support for the ACABQ recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 16 and 17 of

the report with regards to addressing specific issues. The Delegation called on UN-Women to pay attention to implementing the ACABQ recommendations on the Entity's staffing structure, gender balance and equitable geographic representation. A third Member State congratulated UN-Women for its successful resource mobilization and for continuing to ensure that the Entity's financial position is strong, though noted with concern that the growth in voluntary resources mainly occurred within other resources and that regular resource targets for 2020 could not be attained. It commended UN-Women for delivering on its Funding Compact commitments, and supported and underlined the importance of UN-Women's ambition to maintain or exceed the Funding Compact threshold by mobilizing other resources that are predictable, timely and flexible. Additionally, the delegation welcomed UN-Women's ambition to advance public-private partnerships to complement efforts to increase national-level financing with new and innovative funding approaches, such as gender bonds, in collaboration with IFIs, the private sector and institutional investors.

21. In response, the Director, ad interim, of the Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division stressed that the integrated budget was ambitious but realistic and that the target could be met with the support of Member States and donors. The Director explained that this was the minimum critical mass required to be able to deliver on UN-Women's full composite mandate. She underscored that although the bulk of growth had come from other resources, the 2017–2020 period showed 13 per cent growth in regular resources. Finally, the Director ad interim noted that UN-Women will continue to strengthen and balance resources, pursue agile investments and ensure greater diversity and representation.

VI. Structured dialogue on financing

22. Deputy Executive Director Anita Bhatia introduced the agenda item on the structured dialogue on financing the results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018–2021. In her opening remarks, she expressed her gratitude to Member States for their contributions and stated that UN-Women recorded its highest total resources in 2020, at \$563.9 million. She indicated that these dialogues helped build common ground on how the Entity can operationalize the Funding Compact and the mutual accountabilities and commitments of Member States and the UN Development System for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. She emphasized that the organization continued to pursue a wide range of channels to influence gender equality financing at the global, regional and national levels to unlock resources to deliver game-changing results for women and girls. The Deputy Executive Director's statement was followed by a presentation by the Director of Strategic Partnerships, who summarized the Structured Dialogue on Financing report to the Executive Board.

23. After opening the floor, three delegations delivered statements. One Member State congratulated UN-Women on exceeding its overall resource targets in the integrated budget and for reaching the highest level of contributions to regular resources in its history. The delegation supported the Entity's appeal for overall increases to regular resources to enable it to continue to deliver the outcomes detailed in the Strategic Plan 2018–2021. It welcomed UN-Women's progress in improving the format and content of the report, while also appreciating the harmonized approach adopted by the Entity in conjunction with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP. The Member State encouraged UN-Women to continue working with its sister agencies to adopt best practices and apply new methods to attract individual donors. Another delegation expressed its appreciation for the format of the structured dialogue on funding, in particular how it relates to the Funding Compact and the fact that it recognizes trends and the funding needs of the strategic plan. The Member State congratulated UN-Women on its resource mobilization achievements, noting that it demonstrates

the importance of UN-Women's work and the extent to which it is appreciated and valued by its partners. After stressing that mobilizing core contributions and broadening the donor base remain ongoing challenges for UN-Women, it welcomed the Entity's strategic approaches to enhance resource mobilization by engaging with private partners and investing in individual giving schemes. The delegation expressed support for UN-Women's strategic direction for financing for Sustainable Development Goal 5, including through gender bonds and working with IFIs. A third Member State expressed appreciation for UN-Women's efforts under the Funding Compact and the way in which this is reflected in the structured dialogue. Although it welcomed UN-Women surpassing the threshold of 30 per cent non-earmarked funding despite a challenging year, it also expressed worries regarding the current trend of not reaching regular resource targets in 2020. The delegation noted with concern the trends towards a higher volume of lower-value agreements and a higher volume of agreements with shorter time frames. Finally, the Member State commended UN-Women for engaging with IFIs and influencing them to take their work in a more gender-sensitive direction, exploring innovative financing instruments, and for pushing for more and larger multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as within the Generation Equality Forum and Action Coalitions.

24. In response, the Deputy Executive Director shared that, in addition to influencing the work of IFIs, UN-Women has engaged with public development banks through the Finance in Common Summit. She noted that development banks were an important source of domestic financing and argued that being able to influence their funding to include a gender lens can have tremendous positive impact on the lives of women and girls. The Deputy Executive Director added that UN-Women will be expanding these efforts through its role as Co-Chair of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Banks Working Groups and by organizing round tables, such as the one to be held with Nordic public financial institutions in November 2021. The Director of the Strategic Partnership Division shared delegations' satisfaction with the Entity's record resource mobilization performance but stressed that UN-Women maintained that the appropriate ratio of regular to other resources was 50/50 and that it would continue to aspire towards that. He welcomed the Board's encouragement and openness to increasing UN-Women's efforts to leverage individual giving, citing his belief that this will be a significant component of a successful strategy to achieve the Entity's regular resource ambitions.

VII. Closing

25. Following the adoption of Decision 2021/5 on the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025, the Russian Federation, Chile, Germany and Morocco made statements. The Russian Federation expressed disappointment that the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025 includes controversial terms, notions and concepts and highlighted that Decision 2021/5 confirms that the strategic plan did not undergo intergovernmental negotiations. The Russian Federation stressed that the Entity should implement Strategic Plan 2022–2025 in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and their outcome review documents, and take into account States' local laws and realities, cultural specificities, possibilities, capacities and levels of development. Speaking on behalf of 37 States, Chile welcomed the appointment of the third Executive Director of UN-Women and expressed strong support for the new strategic plan, which they believe sets out a clear and ambitious vision for the future and will enable UN-Women to best fulfil its triple mandate and support countries in delivering on their national development needs and priorities. As co-facilitator of the

strategic plan decision, along with Argentina, Germany thanked all delegations for their constructive and active engagement and emphasized that endorsement of the strategic plan is a political signal by the Executive Board of its strong support for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Morocco thanked the interim President for representing the African Group well, for providing prompt information, for facilitating private consultations and for assisting the Executive Board Secretariat. The statements can be accessed through the recording of the session at <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1h/k1hxx2imip>.

26. In her closing statement, the Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director thanked delegations for their expressions of support for UN-Women's mandate and for welcoming the incoming Executive Director. She echoed words of congratulations to Ms. Sima Bahous and further thanked the incoming President of the Executive Board and his predecessor, as well as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone for her role in the transition process. She thanked the Vice-Presidents for their contributions throughout 2021 and for their skilful facilitation, which had led to the adoption of the draft decisions.

27. Regarding the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025, the Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director expressed gratitude for the high level of engagement of Member States during the year-long consultative process and reiterated the Entity's commitment to accelerated, sustainable and transformative change to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as its contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She thanked Member States for their support and encouragement and valued delegations' emphasis on the importance of the strategic plan at this particular juncture, where women continue to be hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic and where multiple crises are disproportionately affecting the lives of women and girls.

28. The Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director thanked UN-Women colleagues and all those who are working to support, promote and protect the human rights of all Afghan women and girls. She also acknowledged the impact of the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review and highlighted its role in supporting UN agencies in rapidly responding to crises, particularly in Afghanistan and Haiti. She stressed that UN-Women continues to stand ready to work with its partner agencies to support women and girls in such situations of hardship.

29. After thanking the Executive Board for the robust discussion under the structured dialogue on financing, the Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director stressed UN-Women's commitment to continue with this dialogue and to do so in a way that is increasingly harmonized with its UN partners. She shared delegates' satisfaction with UN-Women's record resource mobilization performance but emphasized that UN-Women maintains that the appropriate ratio of regular to other resources is 50/50 and that it still aspires to achieve that. The Under-Secretary-General/Acting Executive Director also appreciated the positive reaction to the Entity's ongoing efforts to influence financial flows for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 well beyond funding for the Entity and added that, while labour-intensive, this is an important area of work. She further welcomed the Executive Board's openness to UN-Women's efforts to leverage individual giving to make up an increased share of regular resource mobilization and stressed that the proposed regular resource projection for 2022–2023 is ambitious but realistic. She noted that, with Member States' support, UN-Women is confident that it can meet its revenue targets and reaffirm its commitment to continue efforts to strengthen agility through increased diversity and geographical representation.

30. Speaking on behalf of the President of the Executive Board, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, Victoria Sulimani, concluded by

expressing her appreciation for the commitment and dedication of delegations to secure endorsement of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025 from all Member States. She indicated that she was hopeful that this support would translate to the successful implementation of the strategic plan, to ensure a better world for all, with women and girls at the centre.

31. The session was then adjourned.

Annex I

Decisions adopted at the second regular session of 2021

2021/5

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the preparatory work done and the various informal briefings and workshops with the Executive Board as well as other relevant stakeholders, on the process of elaboration of UN-Women's Strategic Plan 2022–2025 and endorses the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025;
2. *Notes* that the strategic plan is the overall strategic framework for UN-Women and is not inter-governmentally negotiated, and acknowledges that the strategic plan and its annexes include some terms that have not been inter-governmentally endorsed in the United Nations system;
3. *Requests* UN-Women to implement its Strategic Plan in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome documents of their reviews, and applicable United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and the advancement of women, as well as with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the agreement and consent of the host country, taking into account the different national realities, national legislation, ownership and cultural backgrounds, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policy space, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments;
4. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board at its annual session in 2022, the final progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021;
5. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, beginning at its annual session in 2023, an annual progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022–2025, as well as to undertake a midterm review of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025;
6. *Recalls* its decision 2021/02 (paragraph 6) and requests UN-Women to include in the annual reports of the Under Secretary-General/Executive Director on the implementation of the strategic plan, 2022–2025, including in its midterm review, information on results jointly achieved with United Nations development system entities;
7. *Welcomes* the appointment of the third Executive Director of UN-Women.

15 September 2021

2021/6
Integrated Budget estimates for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium 2022–2023

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the UN-Women integrated budget estimates for 2022–2023, which presents a single, integrated budget proposal that includes all budgetary categories, to complement the Entity’s Strategic Plan 2022–2025;
2. *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”;
3. *Takes note* of UN-Women’s zero-growth budget while addressing the additional requirements, reflecting both inflationary cost increases and new ERP-Cloud Solution requirements, through cost savings and efficiencies;
4. *Approves* gross 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 \$39.3 million for cost recovery from other resources (earmarked voluntary contributions);
5. *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;
6. *Notes* the inclusion of the separate cost classification category for oversight and assurance activities further to the Executive Board 2020/8 approved joint comprehensive cost-recovery policy (DP/FPA-ICEFUNW/2020/1);
7. *Notes* UN-Women integrated budget estimates for 2022–2023 and the urgent need for increased investment in gender equality and women’s empowerment to support the results as set out in the Strategic Plan, and encourages UN-Women to engage further Member States and other partners to increase their voluntary contributions, especially in regular resources, and takes note of UN-Women’s proposals to enhance its resource mobilization;
8. *Takes note* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNW/2021/CRP.8) on the UN-Women integrated budget, 2022–2023, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and the related response of UN-Women to the ACABQ report, and requests UN-Women to address the recommendations and to report back to the Executive Board in the context of the next Integrated Budget on actions taken, including on balanced staffing structures.

15 September 2021

2021/7
Structured Dialogue on Financing the results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018–2021

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note* of the report on Structured Dialogue on Financing the Results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 (UNW/2021/8) and encourages UN-Women to engage further in structured dialogue with Member States, with a view to tracking, assessing and following up on the level of funding it receives, including of core resources, as well as predictability, flexibility and alignment of resource provided for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022–2025;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of sufficient flexible and predictable funding, including through multi-year commitments and payments made early in the year to enable UN-Women to fulfil its mandate;
3. *Notes* the importance of Member State commitments to the Funding Compact, particularly with regard to regular, flexible and multi-year commitments and encourages UN-Women to continue to strengthen its efforts to diversify its funding base, including further pursuing individual giving schemes;
4. *Recognizes* the disproportionate socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls and encourage Member States in a position to do so, to make targeted investments in gender equality and women’s empowerment through voluntary contributions to UN-Women, strengthening UN-Women’s regular resources and flexible pooled interagency funding mechanisms in line with the Funding Compact;
5. *Encourages* Member States to increase voluntary contributions, in particular regular resources, mindful of the serious impact of insufficient funding on UN-Women’s ability to fully implement its strategic plan;
6. *Notes with appreciation* UN-Women’s ongoing efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability and requests UN-Women to continue its efforts in this regard and to provide information on its programme activities within the proceedings of the Executive Board.

15 September 2021