



# 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 2020 Annual Session

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## Decisions

2020/3

### **Annual Report of the Under Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on progress made on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, including the midterm review of the Strategic Plan**

*The Executive Board,*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on progress made on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, including the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, and further notes UN-Women's strong performance to date in meeting its annual targets;
2. *Encourages* UN-Women to take into account lessons learned from two years of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021, as well as from its previous strategic plans and takes note with appreciation of the proposed adjustments and the identified areas of improvement as identified in the midterm review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021;
3. *Urges* UN-Women to improve progress towards achieving the partially met outputs of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 and *requests* UN-Women to analyse and assess the targets set for the outputs of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, especially those which have consistently been over-achieved, and present the findings to the Executive Board in the context of consultations on the Strategic Plan 2022-2025;
4. *Requests* that UN-Women in accordance with its mandate, start preparations early for the next strategic plan, 2022-2025, in full consultation with the Executive Board, taking into account the lessons learned from the midterm review, the joint report on the evaluability assessment of the common chapter dated 30 March 2020, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/RES/71/243), the outcome of the 2020 QCPR, and further *requests* that UN-Women present a roadmap at the second regular session 2020 for consultations planned in the preparation of the next strategic plan, 2022-2025;
5. *Commends* UN-Women on effectively leveraging its mandate as a composite entity in assisting Member States, upon their request, and in ensuring coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work; and reaffirms the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and women's empowerment and on gender mainstreaming across the United Nations System;
6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the strong commitment of UN-Women to the United Nations development system reform and encourages UN-Women to continue to work closely with United Nations funds, programmes, and entities under the leadership of resident coordinators and in collaboration with United Nations country teams, stakeholders and other development partners to support country efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework;
7. *Takes note with appreciation* of UN-Women's efforts to meet its commitments on the Funding Compact and improve the quality of funding and joint results, and encourages UN-Women to continue to leverage the Funding Compact and pooled financing mechanisms to strengthen inter-agency collaboration, and *requests* that UN-Women continue the practice of providing an update in the context of the structured dialogue on financing, prior to the second regular session 2020, on how the outcomes of the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, relate to the effective implementation of the Funding Compact in the remaining period of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021;

8. *Requests* that UN-Women, while taking into account its own priorities, accelerate its efforts to implement the common chapter, together with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, including by developing the necessary tracking framework within the respective integrated results and resources frameworks of their current strategic plans, following the recommendations of the joint report on the evaluability assessment of the common chapter dated 30 March 2020 and in the context of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, as laid out in General Assembly resolution 72/279, and also *requests* that UN-Women present a joint update on progress to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2020;
9. *Takes note* of UN-Women's ongoing internal change management and strategic adjustments, and *requests* UN-Women to continue to improve its organizational effectiveness, sustainability of results and accountability, and, in this regard, to address the challenges weakening its results-based management and to enhance inter-agency cooperation and system-wide partnerships, and to keep the executive Board updated on the status of its internal reform processes, aimed at enabling the Entity to deliver better results, including at country level;
10. *Calls for* UN-Women to ensure delivery of the objectives of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, in the context of COVID-19 and to continue to work as part of a coordinated international response, with a focus on supporting programme countries;
11. *Acknowledges* the increase in UN-Women's other resources, encourages countries in a position to do so, to increase their contributions, especially to regular resources;
12. *Notes* UN-Women's joint efforts, including on eradication of poverty, addressing climate change, improving adolescent and maternal health, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development, development and development work which can contribute to peace-building and sustaining peace, and *requests* UN-Women to report to the Executive Board, in its annual report, on its operational and programming targets and corresponding efforts and results, including on making its programmes and operations consistent with its commitments on the mentioned issues;
13. *Decides* to transmit the report to the Economic and Social Council.

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## 2020/4

### **Report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2019**

*The Executive Board,*

1. *Takes note* of the report on the evaluation function of UN-Women in 2019, and the programme of work and budget for 2020 for the Independent Evaluation Services;
2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the steps taken by UN-Women to maintain an independent, credible and useful evaluation function and its contribution to system-wide gender-responsive evaluation efforts and national evaluation capacity development;
3. *Notes* the progress made in implementing the decision 2019/5 and *requests* UN-Women to continue its efforts in order to fully implement this decision with a specific focus on key performance indicators which can be further improved;
4. *Takes note* with appreciation of the inclusion of the additional information on decentralised evaluations, *requests* UN-Women to continue the gender-responsive evaluations of country programmes, in order to improve programming at country level, and to continue using evaluation findings and recommendations in policies, strategies and programming;

5. *Encourages* UN-Women to continue including analysis on each of the nine key performance indicators, on both global and regional level, in the annual report on the Evaluation function;
6. *Takes note* of the submission of the revised Evaluation Policy, *requests* UN-Women to bring the language of the revised Evaluation Policy in line with that of the Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, and submit it for endorsement by the Executive Board at the Second Regular session 2020;
7. *Encourages* UN-Women to strive to reach the 3% top bracket of the range for the financial allocation of the total UN-Women programme budget to the evaluation function; and *requests* UN-Women to continue working to safeguard the independence of the Independent Evaluation Service and ensuring evaluation expertise in the Advisory Committee on Oversight (ACO);
8. *Takes note* of the findings and conclusions of the joint report on the evaluability assessment of the common chapter to the strategic plans of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women dated 30 March 2020, and in this regard *requests* UN-Women management to consult with the Independent Evaluation Service in their efforts to implement the common chapter of the Strategic Plans, 2018-2021;
9. *Requests* that IES continues to seek opportunities with other United Nations agencies to conduct further joint evaluations, and independent system-wide evaluations in line with General Assembly resolution 72/279 on repositioning the United Nations Development System;

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## **2020/5**

### **Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019**

*The Executive Board,*

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the internal audit service and investigation activities and the related management response and expresses its continuing support for strengthening the capacity of Internal Audit Service;
2. *Takes note* of the Advisory Committee on Oversight's report for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019; and encourages UN-Women to consider the Advisory Committee on Oversight's recommendations;
3. *Encourages* UN-Women management in its continuous efforts to further strengthen its second line of defence, including on accountability for key processes highlighted in the report and the establishment of a Statement of Internal Controls;
4. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to allocate sufficient resources to ensure a satisfactory number of internal audits and sufficient capacity for investigations each year as well as to enable sufficient resources to support the functions of the IEAS Director as the responsible official in UN-Women for interactions with OIOS on investigation findings;
5. *Requests* UN-Women to address areas of recurring issues and the high number of audit recommendations related to managing implementing partners, project/programme management, travel management, risk management, structure and capacity, and procurement, including by ensuring the availability of high-competent staff and relevant control mechanisms in order to manage these areas of recurring concern;
6. *Takes note with appreciation* the transparency on the status of investigations and the actions taken, including the Report of the Executive Director of UN-Women on disciplinary measures and other actions

taken in response to misconduct and wrongdoing by UN-Women staff members, other personnel or third parties and cases of possible criminal behavior 1 January – 31 December 2019, and *requests* the Executive Director of UN-Women to continue efforts in this regard.

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## **2020/6**

### **UN-Women policies and procedures to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment**

*The Executive Board,*

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the update provided on the implementation of recommendations contained in the independent victim-centred review of UN-Women's policies and procedures on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and as noted in the related management response;
2. *Encourages* UN-Women to continue to take action to ensure a joint, system-wide coherent approach to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, while leveraging its mandate, including during the COVID-19 response and recovery;
3. *Requests* UN-Women to provide an update on how UN-Women is preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in its policies, procedures and operations including an update and analysis on emerging sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment risks, and actions taken to address issues of concern, including support to victims and survivors, during the COVID-19 response and recovery, within existing reporting lines including at the Second Regular Session 2020;

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