



Joint briefing on lessons learned at the virtual annual sessions 2020 (UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP)

Wednesday, 28 July 2020 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (NY time)

- Everyone except presenters is **muted**;
- Kindly add Member State and level to name;
- All interventions should be made via the 'Raise Hand' function;
- Contact **abrahamw@unops.org** for support.

Thank you kindly for your cooperation.

Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

LESSONS LEARNED: Overview

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

GENERAL TAKEAWAYS

Virtual modalities proved effective in managing the logistic limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic



The Board was able to operate under exceptional circumstances while maintaining its **oversight function**






Abridged workplans focused on the implementation of **strategic plans**, with effective consideration of annual reports and midterm reviews



Harmonization of virtual modalities across NY-based Boards facilitated uniformity of processes and will be further continued

LESSONS LEARNED: Tech, scheduling and negotiations

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

		
<p>English-only meetings were an exception and viable options for interpretation are being explored for the second regular session.</p>	<p>Time management was important will be critical in the SRS</p>	<p>Earlier negotiations allowed for thorough deliberation and engagement.</p>
<p>Livestreams were useful and secure in allowing a wider following of proceedings. Further integration with UN official Webcast and UNTV archival system may be pursued</p>	<p>Papersmart continues to be a tool to facilitate the publications extended versions of brief oral statements</p>	<p>Early identification of facilitators is important, especially for SRS with higher number of decisions. The training of facilitators on standardized Zoom meeting practices proved useful.</p>
<p>e-mail accreditation and complementary Zoom registration allowed for verification of participants and increased security of Zoom meetings . In meeting Zoom support will again be pursued.</p>	<p>Inclusive meetings, including participation from capitals</p>	<p>The use of break-out rooms during the negotiations was extensively used by EB members and is to be continued at the SRS.</p>

Executive Board of UNICEF

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

LESSONS LEARNED: positive feedback on overall session quality

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

Survey Results

Smooth conduct of business.

Inclusive participation, including capitals.

Focused presentations & sufficient time for discussions.

Effective, cost-efficient and greener session.

LESSONS LEARNED: positive feedback on overall session quality

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

Recommendations

Increase the time limits for statements.

Keep presentations concise and focused.

Continue with the practice of starting negotiations on draft decisions ahead of the session.

Create an online accreditation form.

Executive Board of UN-Women

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

LESSONS LEARNED: Reflections and takeaways

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

Interventions

Member State statements were successfully delivered via virtual means, with delegations kindly **adhering to the requested time limits**.

For future sessions, **delegations encouraged to pose direct questions for response during interventions**.

UN-Women's presentations to be as **succinct and streamlined as possible**.

LESSONS LEARNED: positive feedback on overall session quality

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

Negotiation of Decisions

Virtual negotiations, despite the new modality, were successful in accommodating inputs from Member States, both from New York and capitals.

Time allotted for the negotiations of decisions was planned with the aim of avoiding parallel consultations and respecting official working hours, with the collective efforts of Member States allowing for successful outcomes.

Interpretation

UN-Women Executive Board Secretariat continues to work along with the Secretariats of its sister agencies to explore means of supporting interpretation for future virtual sessions.

Executive Board of WFP

VIRTUAL 2020 ANNUAL SESSION

Comparison between EB.1/2020 and EB.A/2020 virtual sessions

Topic	EB.1/2020	EB.A/2020	Comments
Agenda	One time sensitive item approved by correspondence in March; No Regional Director presentations; No special guest.	Full agenda; Regional Director presentations; 4-member special guest panel with several Q&A rounds.	Best special guest panel in EB history; 3 of 6 Regional Director presentations went over due to videos.
Timetable	2 half days, w/90 min extension on 2 nd day morning (11:00 start) Strict time limits of 2 min National and 4 min List statements deemed too short.	4 full days and 1 half day, with half day overflow buffer built in; Strict time limits of 3 min National and 5 min List statements deemed more appropriate.	Virtual timetable of 3-hour segments a.m. and p.m. to be applied to future virtual and physical meetings; Internal guidance for Management statements also updated but not always followed for both sessions.
Interpretation	A, E, F, S and R No Chinese due to lack of local interpreters and travel restrictions	A, C, E, F, S and R less one 3-hour slot of C due to availability of only 1 team and CEB-AIIC slot limits.	Hub interpretation preferred, less interferences with control of microphones locally.
Participants	Membership only; WFP multilingual webcasting used extensively 1 st time: 1,260 viewers over entire session Average 630 viewers/day	Membership, UN/IO/NGO; WFP WFP multilingual webcasting: 3,590 viewers over entire session Average 718 viewers/day Day 1 highest # of viewers: 1,173	President chaired from his seat at table for both sessions with Management largely present; WFP-loaned laptops to 2 Member States;
Help Desk & Upgrades	2-person plus AV team 2 days of advance testing	3-person plus AV team 3 days of advance testing	Expanded detailed tech guidance & simpler 1-pager DOs and DON'Ts; additional features being added

LESSONS LEARNED: EB.1/2020 and EB.A/2020 virtual sessions



Receipt and publication on restricted site of both Member State and Management statements/**talking points in advance** supported interpreters and participants alike.

To offset webcasting overloading and support reporting, **video archives** were posted on restricted site same day; webcasting also opened earlier (now 30 min before session start). Upgrades pending to increase level of viewers to 20K.

Video tutorial being created and further upgrades such as pop-up warning messages to help users recognize when a conference room ID has been typed incorrectly, or when the camera or microphone has not been enabled, with brief guidance on how to resolve the issue.