Management Response to the Report of the Board of Auditors

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Anna-Karin Jatfors, Director
Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division
1. Context and overview
2. Overview of 2020 UNBoA audit
3. Status of implementation of audit recommendations
4. Contributions towards Strategic Plan 2022-2025 Implementation
5. Response to Executive Board Decisions
UN-Women commits to:

To promote **accountability and transparency** and as part of principled performance, strengthen systematic and sustainable uptake of audit and assessment findings for continuous improvement of **internal governance, risk management and controls**.

Ensure successful implementation of the Executive Board-endorsed **Strategic Plan 2022-2025**, through timely implementation of audit recommendations and remain responsive and agile to respond to an evolving **operating environment**, including in the context of COVID-19.
# Overview of 2020 UNBOA Audit

**as of 31 December 2020**

## 10th Consecutive Unqualified Audit Opinion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offices Audited:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa RO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab States RO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan CO</td>
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## 23 Recommendations Issued

### High Priority Recommendations:
- New corporate database as the single source of information on global footprint
- Strengthened management and oversight for timely processing and recording of partner project expenditures

### Corporate Recommendations:
- Formalized oversight mechanism and system control for robust information and data security
- Streamlined workflow for staff overtime request and approval

## Positive Impacts from Recommendations Implemented during 2020

- Headquarters
- West and Central Africa RO
- Arab States RO
- Jordan CO
## STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF UNBOA AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

of **total 29** outstanding audit recommendations as of January 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actions completed</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>21 recs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed as implemented</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>8 recs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions in progress</td>
<td></td>
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UN-Women has **NO** Long outstanding UNBOA recommendations
CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025 IMPLEMENTATION

Positive impacts from implementing audit recommendations

Principled Performance
- Clear instruction to guide examination and inclusion of all standardized risks and mitigating actions
- Improved control on user access to ERM system
- Streamlined process for aggregation, determination and review of cross-cutting risks
- Enhanced review and timely reporting of coordination levy
- More robust ICT security through regular review and management of user access
- Increased compliance to risk-based partner expenditure review procedure
- Timely recording of partner project expenditures with enhanced monitoring mechanism

Products, Services and Processes
- Standardized checklist for project closures
- Well-defined workflow process to resolve project partner audit financial findings
- Updated guidance on the inclusion of project procurement plan

Advancing Partnerships and Resourcing
- Improved Donor Report preparation procedures for timely submission

Business Transformation
- Standardized process for objective assessment of office presence type
- Up-to-date corporate system as the single source information for global footprint
- Global availability of data on partner performance/capacity for project planning and implementation

Empowered People
- Deepened staff capacity and knowledge on risk-based partner expenditure review process through training
RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISIONS

Implementation status of prior years’ audit recommendations

The Board “…..requests UN-Women to continue implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors from prior years for closure by the Board of Auditors.”

Of the remaining 6 prior years’ recommendations issued in 2017 to 2019:

- 4 recommendations assessed by UNBoA as implemented and closed
- 2 recommendations with UN-Women completed actions and awaiting UNBoA assessment and closure