

# MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNAL AUDIT AND INVESTIGATIONS ACTIVITIES

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Anna-Karin Jatfors, Director Strategy, Planning, Resources and Effectiveness Division



Photo |UN Womer



#### CONTENT

1

IAS Opinion

2

Overarching Areas for Improvement

3

Management
Actions
& Impacts

4

Investigation Activities

5

Ethical and Respectful Workplace



#### IAS OPINION



"UN-Women's governance, risk management, and control processes were generally established and functioning but needed some improvement."

IAS also noted "the **growing maturity** of UN-Women's corporate governance, transparency, and integrity during 2023."

This underscores UN-Women's commitment to ensuring continuous improvements in adapting to an evolving operational landscape.



#### **OVERARCHING AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

#### Quantum **Second Line of Defence** Migration completed and Strengthened management functional stabilization on track. oversight at HQ and RO level. Critical reports available and 02 01 Enhanced risk management training for staff ongoing. maturity. **Overarching Areas for Improvement** Pivot to the Field **Statement of Internal Control** Ongoing strengthening of 03 UN Women to issue a presences to ensure that statement of internal controls resources, expertise and over financial reporting in its authority are available at the 2024 financial statements. regional and country level.

#### **Principled Performance**

Updated Internal Control Framework and Delegation of Authority Policy

Budget Allocation Committee operationalized to facilitate efficient resource management

Upward trend in compliance with InfoSec standards and programme

97% compliance with UN-Women's Business Continuity Crisis Management Application







#### **Advancing Partnerships and Resourcing**

New corporate strategies on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Engagement promulgated

Robust country-level resource mobilization strategies developed and implemented

Focused and data-driven communication strategies to enhance regional and country-level advocacy efforts



#### **Business Transformation**

Use of Strategic Notes to drive results aligned with the UN-Women Strategic Plan and UNSDCFs

Enhanced planning and monitoring of country-level sustainability, through Strategic Note and QBR processes and dedicated functional analyses

Corporate Coordination Strategy and UNCT - SWAP Action Plan utilized to drive gender mainstreaming strategies at country level





#### **Empowered People**

Regional HR business partners driving decentralized HR processes

Six new coordination specialist posts at regional level for heightened field support

Fast-tracking procedure to accelerate staff deployment during crisis situations

**Revised Consultant Policy** 



#### **Products, Services, and Procedures**

Comprehensive Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Policy promulgated

Updated policies and procedures have improved project design and planning in line with programmatic objectives

Enhanced programme partner management, including through risk-based assessments, capacity development, and monitoring





#### **INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES**



# Corporate activities to address workplace-related matters

A new in-house internal investigation function established to complement OIOS investigation services

An ethical organizational culture fostered by the appointment of the first-ever Ethics Advisor and addressing workplace issues comprehensively

Zero tolerance for all forms of misconduct with timely disciplinary actions taken



#### **ETHICAL & RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE**





### **THANK YOU!**

