

Management Response to the report of the Audit Advisory Committee

For the period 1 January to 31 December 2016

Regional architecture and organizational matters

In line with the report of the Audit Advisory Committee, UN Women is:

- reviewing the typology of country presences;
 - continuing to decentralize authority to the field, including increasing delegated authority to the field;
 - strengthening the financial management capabilities;
 - testing an e-recruitment system.
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- UN Women launched a global workforce database, developed a performance management compliance dashboard, transitioned to a new learning management system, and piloted leadership development and mentorship programmes.

Programme activities

UN Women:

- welcomes the Committee's continued support for the Flagship Programme Initiatives (FPIs) and support for its results management system, including its use in improving planning and reporting;
- agrees with the Committee's recommendation on closely monitoring the management of advances made to implementing partners.

Enterprise risk management

- UN Women produced the first Corporate Risk Register that provides a view of organization's top risks;
- Continues efforts to build capacity and awareness to sustain the practice of risk management.

Funding framework and resource mobilization

UN Women:

- Agrees with the importance of realistic targets and clear assignment of responsibility and accountability for resource mobilization;
- Agrees with the recommendation to focus on quality and capacity of partners rather than quantity of partners.

Financial statements

- Appreciates the acknowledgement of the Committee on UN Women's receipt of an unqualified audit opinion from the Board of Auditors for the fifth consecutive year

Ethics

- Increased communications with the UN Ethics Office

Internal oversight and assurance functions

UN Women

Evaluation

- * Agrees with the Committee on the importance of evaluation assessing expected achievements.

Internal Audit

- Has updated the comparative cost analysis comparing current outsourcing arrangement with internalizing the function within UN Women and notes that internalizing shows significant cost savings;
- Welcomes the Committee's suggestion to establish one oversight unit covering internal oversight and assurance functions.

Investigations

- Has taken measures to obtain timely updates on investigations.

Relationship with UNDP

- UN Women fully agrees recommendation to ensure outsourced functions are performed appropriately;
- UN Women led the group of UN entities receiving services to issue a request to UN entities providing services to share the list of provided services, performance indicators, and prices.