



Joint Response by the secretariats of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and UN-Women on the Working Methods of the Executive Boards

In response to decisions ([2019/8](#), UN-Women; [2019/16](#), UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS; and [2019/9](#), UNICEF) to

- Present initial proposals to **improve the working methods of the Joint Meeting of the Boards**, including an **optimal timing** for convening the Joint Meeting of the Boards;
- Propose **alternative dates of the second regular session**
- Present proposals for **improving the efficiency of the sessions** of the Executive Board, including reviewing the agenda items.



I. Proposals to improve the working methods of the Joint Meeting of the Boards, and optimal timing

Proposed Example: one-week of consecutive sessions, 31 August- 4 September 2020

Monday 31 August: Joint Meeting of the Boards
Tuesday 1 September: UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Second Regular Session
Wednesday 2 September: UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Second Regular Session
Thursday 3 September: UNICEF Second Regular Session
Friday 4 September: UN-Women Second Regular Session

- **Joint Meeting of the Boards: February/March (before or after the 1RS) or mid-November (upon consultation with and authorization from the Committee on Conferences on other/conflicting meetings during the General Assembly)**
- **Topics of joint relevance such as on sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, UNDS reform, cost recovery and working methods, etc.**
- **Documentation based on existing documentation produced for each of the respective Boards**



UNOPS



II. Possible alternative dates of the **second regular session of the Executive Boards**

- **Option 1**: Early September, with a one-day JMB, followed by consecutive one-day Board sessions (2 days for UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS) for each Board totaling one week
- **Option 2**: Every two years for the approval of the respective Strategic Plans and budgets in early September. Other items normally considered at the second regular session moved to the first regular or annual session.
- **Option 3**: Every two years in October or November. As the General Assembly is in session, a waiver from the Committee on Conferences would need to be granted every year.

UN-Women and UNOPS have biennial budgets every two years, whereas UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF have a quadrennial budget. UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF may only need a second regular session once every four years.



UNOPS



Joint proposals

- Only items for decision should be part of the formal Second regular session.
- Focus on joint informal briefings for the NY-based Boards (i.e. Funding Compact discussion in August 2019).
- Effective use on time in formal sessions (mike management)
- Continued practice of starting negotiations on the draft decisions at least one day before the start of each session.