First regular session 2009
19 to 22 January 2009, New York
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2008

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(21 to 28 January 2008, New York)

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2008/1
UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009, including additional security measures for UNDP personnel and premises

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the functions, management results, indicators and resource requirements in the budget estimates for the biennium 2008-2009, as contained document DP/2008/3;

2. Also takes note of the finding of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that there is room for further improvement on presenting information on the link with specific programmes of work or activities, which should allow assessment of the cost effectiveness and degree of achievement of expected results;

3. Approves gross regular resources in the amount of $853.6 million, as presented in document DP/2008/3, subject to the provisions of the present decision;

4. Requests the Administrator to ensure that the biennial support budget is consistent with the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, and its annexes, as augmented and amended in accordance with decision 2007/32 and in accordance with the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review, and to submit a report to the Executive Board at its second regular session, 2008;

5. Takes note of the concerns expressed by the ACABQ on the tendency for upward reclassification (DP/2008/5), and requests UNDP to exercise the utmost restraint in implementing its proposal for upward reclassifications, with clear justifications in line with International Civil Service Commission standards;

6. Also requests the Administrator to include in future budget submissions an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiencies achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report on the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial reporting;

7. Decides that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of resources, urges UNDP to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and further urges UNDP to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

8. Recalls the request to the Administrator, in decisions 2007/18 and 2007/33, to submit to the Executive Board, at its first regular session 2009, a report with proposals for realigning cost classification of activities funded from the programme financial framework and the biennial support budget, in the context of the preparation of the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, and in this regard encourages the Administrator to intensify consultations with other United Nations funds and programmes in order to harmonize, to the extent possible, the attribution of costs between the programme and support budgets;

9. Requests the Administrator to include in the report on cost classification, at the first regular session 2009, information on the concept and methodology determining the minimum base structure, as well as a description of that structure;

10. Reaffirms decision 2007/18 on UNDP cost recovery, and requests the Administrator to realign the funding modality of UNDP management activities to ensure that cost-recovery income bears the support cost associated with all ‘other resources’-funded activities within the next biennium, in order to implement decisions 2003/22 and 2005/33;
11. Requests the Administrator, in close cooperation with other United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to harmonize the methodology of results-based budgeting and to improve targets and indicators, taking into account the views expressed by Member States;

12. Also requests information on steps and progress made with respect to the requests made in paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11, above, at the second regular session 2008;

13. Approves the maximum expenditure of $9 million from regular resources to cover the costs of introducing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the end of 2009;

14. Requests the Administrator to include information on support requirements related to all sources of funding in future biennial support budgets, in accordance with paragraph 12 of the ACABQ recommendations (DP/2008/5);

15. Requests the Administrator to present the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, for the approval of the Executive Board, at the second regular session 2009;

16. Takes note of the consolidated summary of UNDP funding requirements for security activities*;

17. In that regard, approves the net amount of $51.2 million as a separate requirement from regular resources to cover security measures mandated by the United Nations;

18. Endorses the proposal of the Administrator to grant him exceptional authority, during 2008-2009, to access up to an additional 20 per cent ($10.2 million) of the $51.2 million proposed net regular resources earmarked for security measures, mandated by the United Nations. UNDP will limit the use of those funds to new and emerging security mandates, as defined in the United Nations Department of Safety and Security directives, and will report to the Executive Board on the use of those funds in its annual review of the financial situation.

24 January 2008

2008/2
UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and resources mobilization framework

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the functions, management results, indicators and resource requirements in the budget estimates for the biennium 2008-2009, as contained in document DP/2008/4;

2. Also takes note of the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. Approves the gross appropriations in the amount of $23,044,000, as indicated in table 2 of the report, to be utilized for the purposes indicated in the report;

4. Requests UNIFEM to include in future budget submissions an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiency achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report against the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial reporting;

5. Decides that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of overall resources, urges UNIFEM to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and further urges UNIFEM to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

* As outlined in document DP/2008/CRP.2
6. Requests the Executive Director of UNIFEM, in close co-operation with the other United Nations Funds and Programmes, to continue to harmonize and improve the methodology of results-based budgeting, and requests a briefing on the steps taken and progress achieved on budget-related issues at the second regular session 2008, including issues related to indicators, targets and the cost classification of items in the results based budgets;

7. Requests the Administrator, UNDP, to present the 2010-2011 biennial support budget for Executive Board approval at the second regular session 2009;

8. Welcomes the UNIFEM response to decision 2007/35 requesting information relating to the resource mobilization framework, and encourages UNIFEM to expand its financial resource base by strengthening partnerships with all its stakeholders, and to diversify and deepen its donor base;

9. Reiterates, in this regard, that regular resources continue to be the bedrock of UNIFEM and are essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work, and calls upon donor countries, and all other countries in a position to do so, to increase their contributions to the regular resources of UNIFEM, including through multi-year pledges.

24 January 2008

2008/3
UNIFEM cost-recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on the cost recovery policy of the United Nations Development Fund for Women as contained in document DP/2008/11;

2. Reiterates the need for UNIFEM to continue monitoring efforts to ensure that functions linked to the management of other resources are adequately funded without undue subsidization by regular resources.

3. Urges UNIFEM to harmonize its cost recovery policy with United Nations organizations for multi-donor trust funds, joint programmes and joint offices, recognizing that the adoption of these principles by United Nations organizations constitutes a step towards increased transparency and comparability of cost recovery throughout the United Nations system;

4. Notes the proposal in the cost-recovery policy to retain flexibility, on a case-by-case basis, and requests UNIFEM to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2008, on the criteria and procedures for granting exceptions from the flat rate;

5. Requests the management of UNIFEM to report, at the annual session 2008, on the implementation of the cost-recovery policy, including details of fixed and variable indirect costs and the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, and to report on the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered;

24 January 2008

2008/4
UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report on the UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy (DP/2008/12);
2. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in finalizing the details of the strategic partnership between UNDP and UNCDF, particularly with respect to: (a) integrating the UNCDF contribution into the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011; and (b) achieving the strategic and operational objectives of the partnership, as outlined in document DP/2007/11;

3. Requests UNDP and UNCDF to report to the Executive Board at the annual session 2009 on progress made in implementing their strategic partnership;

4. Takes note of the proposed UNCDF programming and funding arrangements, 2008-2011, and reiterates its call to donor countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries in order to enable UNCDF to implement its 2008-2011 Investment Plan;

5. Decides that the UNCDF cost-recovery policy will entail a recovery rate of 7 per cent for recovery of indirect support costs for new third party contributions and a basic 3 per cent recovery rate of indirect support costs for all new programme country contributions;

6. Requests the UNCDF management to report on the implementation of the cost-recovery policy, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, for consideration at the annual session 2008.

24 January 2008

2008/5
UNOPS biennial planning and budget framework

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the biennial planning and budget framework of UNOPS (DP/2008/13), and of the strategic performance objectives, measures, targets, and associated resource requirements;

2. Approves the budget contained therein;

3. Recalls the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the matter of the interfund balance, and requests UNOPS and UNDP to finalize settlement as a matter of priority for the 2006-2007 closure,

4. Also recalls the shortfall issue mentioned in paragraph 13 of the ACABQ report dated 19 December 2007, and calls upon UNOPS and UNDP, in conjunction with relevant partners, to accelerate the resolution of this issue;

5. Requests the Executive Director of UNOPS to continue efforts to harmonize its budget format with the biennial support budgets of other United Nations funds and programmes, while taking into consideration the specifics of UNOPS, and to contribute to improving the methodology of results-based budgeting, including targets and indicators;

6. Requests the Executive Director of UNOPS to present the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, for the approval of the Executive Board, at the second regular session 2009.

7. Requests the Executive Director of UNOPS to submit its accountability framework and oversight policy for consideration and approval by the Executive Board at its annual session 2008.

24 January 2008
2008/6
Estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the functions, management outputs, indicators and resource requirements in the estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009, as contained in document DP/FPA/2008/1;

2. Approves gross resources in the amount of $259.8 million, representing the total biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and notes that after offsetting the indirect cost recovery amount of $24 million, the estimated net resources total $235.8 million;

3. Decides that the appropriated amount should be used to achieve the management outputs as specified in the 16 functions presented in document DP/FPA/2008/1;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to include, in future budget submissions, an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiencies achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report on the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial review;

5. Decides that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of overall resources, urges UNFPA to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and further urges UNFPA to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

6. Requests the Executive Director of UNFPA, in close cooperation with other United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to harmonize and improve the methodology of results-based budgeting, and requests a briefing, at the second regular session 2008, on steps taken and progress achieved on budget-related issues, including issues related to indicators, targets and cost classifications of items in the results-based budgets;

7. Authorizes additional funding expenditures of $6 million from regular resources to further implement the Enterprise Resource Planning (Atlas) project, including the implementation of international public sector accounting standards;

8. Also authorizes additional funding expenditures of $2.4 million from regular resources to replenish the security reserve;

9. Further authorizes that $28.4 million be used for the one-time costs of the new UNFPA organizational structure, and urges UNFPA to replenish its operational reserve to the mandated level by 2010, at the latest;

10. Takes note of the additional requirement of $5 million for funding the UNFPA security reserve;

11. Authorizes a further expenditure of $5 million from regular resources to replenish the security reserve, in addition to the $2.4 million requested in the estimates for the biennial support budget for 2008-2009 (DP/FPA/2008/1);

12. Endorses the proposal of the Executive Director to grant her exceptional authority, during 2008-2009, to access up to an additional 20 per cent ($2.2 million) of the proposed security reserve expenditure requirement of $11.1 million. UNFPA will limit the use of those funds to new and emerging security mandates as defined by United Nations Department of Safety and Security directives, and will report on the use of the funds in the annual financial review to the Executive Board.

1 As outlined in document DP/FPA/2008/CRP.1
13. Recognizes that the field operations of UNFPA have evolved since the adoption of decision 1995/35, and decides that UNFPA should continue to use the current International Civil Service Commission standards to classify or reclassify international staff positions, and further requests UNFPA to exercise restraint when considering the upward classification of staff positions;

14. Requests the Executive Director to present the estimates for the biennial support budget for 2010-2011 for approval by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2009.

24 January 2008

2008/7

(a) Joint report of UNDP and of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/5);

2. Decides to transmit the above-mentioned report to the Economic and Social Council, along with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session;

3. Requests UNDP and UNFPA to include in future reports a more qualitative assessment and analysis of results achieved, progress made and difficulties encountered, as well as lessons learned.

(b) Recommendation regarding the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2211(XXI) of 17 December 1966, in response to which a trust fund, subsequently renamed the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was established by the Secretary-General in 1967,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 3019 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, by which the Assembly placed UNFPA under its authority, as a subsidiary organ in accordance with article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations, taking into account the separate identity of UNFPA,

1. Notes that no formal provision was made for the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA upon the cessation of the administrative role of the Administrator of UNDP with respect to UNFPA;

2. Emphasizes the importance of harmonizing formal appointment procedures for the funds and programmes of the United Nations;

3. Invites the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly, accordingly, that the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA be regularized and that the Secretary-General of the United Nations appoint the Executive Director of UNFPA for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January, after consultation with the Executive Board.

24 January 2008
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2008, it:

Item 1

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2008:
President: H.E. Mr. Jean-Marie Ehouzou (Benin)
Vice-President Mr. Mahmudul Karim (Bangladesh)
Vice-President Mr. Gustavo Endara (Ecuador)
Vice-President H.E. Mr. Peter Burian (Slovakia)
Vice-President Mr. Thomas Gass (Switzerland)

Adopted the agenda and work plan for its first regular session 2008 (DP/2008/L.1);
Adopted the report of the second regular session 2007 (DP/2008/1) and its corrigendum (DP/2008/1/Corr.1);
Adopted the annual work plan for 2008 (DP/2008/CRP.1);
Approved the tentative work plan for the annual session 2008;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2008:
- Annual session 2008: 16 to 27 June 2008
- Second regular session 2008: 8 to 12 September 2008

UNDP segment

Item 2

Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2008/1 on the UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009, including additional security measures for UNDP personnel and premises;
Adopted decision 2008/2 on the UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and resources mobilization framework;

Item 3

Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programme documents:
Africa: Regional programme, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Togo;
Arab States: Kuwait and Somalia;
Asia and the Pacific: Regional programme, multi-country programmes for Fiji and Samoa, and Nepal;
Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional programme, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Nicaragua;

Item 4

Evaluation

Took note of the following reports:
Evaluation of results-based management in UNDP (DP/2008/6);
Management response to the evaluation of results-based management in UNDP (DP/2008/7);
Evaluation of the UNDP contribution to South-South cooperation (DP/2008/8);
Management response to the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to South-South cooperation (DP/2008/9);

**Item 5**

**South-South cooperation**

Approved the extension of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/2008/10);

**Item 6**

**United Nations Development Fund for Women**

Adopted decision 2008/3 on the UNIFEM cost-recovery policy;

**Item 7**

**United Nations Capital Development Fund**

Adopted decision 2008/4 on the UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy;

**Item 8**

**United Nations Office for Project Services**

Adopted decision 2008/5 on the UNOPS biennial planning and budget framework;

**Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment**

**Item 9**

**Recommendations of the Board of Auditors**

Took note of the UNDP report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005 (DP/2008/15);

Took note of the UNFPA report on follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2004-2005: status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA/2008/3);

**Item 10**

**Internal audit and oversight**

Adopted an oral decision on the reports on the UNDP accountability system and the UNFPA oversight policy, as follows: “Having considered the reports (DP/2008/16) and (DP/FPA/2008/4) and the efforts of UNDP and UNFPA to improve accountability and oversight, the Executive Board requests the administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to revert on this matter to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2008, after extensive consultations with the Executive Board to review these documents, taking into account the concerns of Member States”.

**Item 11**

**Report to the Economic and Social Council**

Adopted decision 2008/7 on the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council and on the recommendation regarding the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA;
UNFPA segment

Item 12
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2008/6 on the estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009;

Item 13
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programme documents:
Africa: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Togo;
Arab States, Europe and Central Asia: Somalia;
Asia and the Pacific: Nepal and the Pacific Island countries;
Latin America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua;

Item 14
Programming arrangements

Took note of the report on TRAC-2 allocation, methodology and criteria for establishing fixed lines in the programming arrangements;

Joint meeting

Held a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP on 25 and 28 January 2008, which addressed the following topics: (a) progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; (b) feedback from ‘delivering as one’; and (c) disaster risk reduction strategies.

24 January 2008

2008/9

Report of the UNFPA Executive Director for 2007, including the statistical and financial review

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the documents that make up the report of the UNFPA Executive Director for 2007 (DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part I), DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part I, Add.1) and DP/2008/23/Add.1- DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part II));

2. Also takes note of the progress made in aligning UNFPA programming to the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, in response to the national priorities of programme countries;

3. Recognizes the significance of increasing contributions and achieving stability and predictability in contributions to UNFPA regular resources, which are the bedrock of UNFPA operations;

4. Recognizes that timeliness in the payment of contributions is essential to maintaining liquidity and to facilitating continuous programme implementation in assisting countries in achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals;

5. Takes note of progress with regard to results-based management and urges UNFPA to continue to improve results-based management indicators and baselines.

20 June 2008
2008/10
Funding commitments to UNFPA

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report on funding commitments to UNFPA (DP/FPA/2008/9), welcomes the substantial increase in the 2007 regular income level of UNFPA and the increase in the 2007 co-financing income, and also welcomes the contributions made by programme countries;

2. Emphasizes that regular resources are the bedrock of UNFPA and essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work, and encourages UNFPA to further mobilize these resources while also continuing to mobilize supplementary resources for its thematic funds and programmes;

3. Recognizes that sustaining and improving the UNFPA funding level will require countries that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions during the period of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. Encourages all countries in a position to do so to make contributions early in the year and to make multi-year pledges;

5. Emphasizes that UNFPA needs strong political support and increased financial support, in particular increased and predictable core funding, in order to enhance its assistance to countries to enable them to fully integrate the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development into national development strategies and frameworks.

20 June 2008

2008/11
UNFPA and UNDP draft country programme documents

The Executive Board

1. Recalls its decision 2006/9 on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data;

2. Commends UNFPA for providing this information in connection with the review and approval process for the new country programme cycle;

3. Takes note of the highlights of UNDP country programme results and lessons learned, and encourages UNDP to continue to improve the quality of the content of this submission, including by using a format similar to the UNFPA country programme performance summary as well as appropriate evaluative information;

4. Also recalls its decision 2006/36 on the review of the country programme approval process and requests UNDP and UNFPA to provide a short explanation of the reasons for the deferment of draft country programme documents from the annual session to the second regular session;

5. Urges UNFPA and UNDP to increase their efforts to present draft country programme documents for discussion at the annual session of the Executive Board, as per decision 2006/36.

25 June 2008

2008/12
Evaluation in UNFPA

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the periodic report on evaluation (DP/FPA/2008/10);
2. **Welcomes** the steps taken and planned by UNFPA to strengthen evaluation at all levels of the organization by developing an evidence-informed methodology to improve programming and by systematically engaging national stakeholders;

3. **Notes** with concern the decline in the quality of evaluations and **requests** UNFPA to further improve the quality of its evaluations by, inter alia, enhancing the quality of programme design and outcome assessments, increasing the use of evaluation results to improve programming and analysing the UNFPA contribution to development results;

4. **Notes** the UNFPA concern about the low rate of reported follow-up to country programme evaluations, and **urges** UNFPA to improve follow-up to such evaluations;

5. **Requests** the Executive Director of UNFPA to submit periodic reports on evaluation in relation to the outcomes of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, including lessons learned, impact on programmes, difficulties encountered and progress made, and the performance of the evaluation function;

6. **Further requests** the Executive Director of UNFPA to submit a report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on a comprehensive evaluation policy consistent with General Assembly resolution 62/208 and international best practices. In this regard, the Board **further requests** the Executive Director to keep the Board informed of the development of the evaluation policy, including through consultation with the Board at its first regular session 2009;

7. **Underlines** the importance of increasing the participation of national counterparts and strengthening national capacity in the evaluation and follow-up of UNFPA country programmes, **encourages** UNFPA to use national evaluation systems where available and to continue to incorporate capacity-building mechanisms into programme design and implementation, and **welcomes** progress attained in this regard;

8. **Notes** the endorsement in 2005 of the norms and standards for evaluation by the United Nations system through the United Nations Evaluation Group, constituting a contribution to strengthening evaluation as a United Nations system function;

9. **Emphasizes** the importance of the independence and impartiality of the evaluation function within the United Nations system.

20 June 2008

**2008/13**

**Internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS)**

**The Executive Board**

1. **Takes note of:** (a) the report on internal audit and investigations in UNDP (DP/2008/20); (b) the report on UNFPA internal audit and oversight activities in 2007 (DP/FPA/2008/11); and (c) the report of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) on internal audit and oversight in 2007 (DP/2008/21);

2. **Welcomes** the focus on key and recurrent management issues, the clarity and format of the recommendations, and the risk-based audit planning in the internal audit reports;

3. **Recalls** decision 2006/19, and **requests** UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to include in their respective audit and oversight reports: (a) a list of the key findings and the ratings, (b) a table displaying unresolved audit recommendations by year and category, and (c) an explanation of findings that have remained unresolved for 18 months or more;

4. **Calls upon** UNDP and UNFPA to further strengthen the national execution modality by addressing the operational risks and weaknesses identified in the audit reports, with
5. **Recalls** General Assembly resolution 62/208, which calls upon United Nations organizations to adopt measures that ensure sustainability in capacity-building activities, and to use, to the fullest extent possible, national execution and available national expertise and technologies as the norm in implementing operational activities by focusing on national structures and by avoiding, wherever possible, the practice of establishing parallel implementation units outside national and local institutions, and to continue to strengthen national execution, bearing in mind the importance of building national capacity and simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures, and in this regard requests UNDP and UNFPA to report to the Executive Board on actions and experiences in strengthening national execution;

6. **Requests** UNDP and UNFPA to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on progress made and lessons learned in implementing the harmonized approach to cash transfers, including in connection with the development of procedures, capacity-building and reporting mechanisms;

7. **Notes with appreciation** the harmonized and standardized use of audit ratings by UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations World Food Programme;

8. **Notes with concern** that the inter-fund balance and other outstanding issues between UNDP and UNOPS, referred to in decision 2007/27, have not yet been resolved, and requests UNDP and UNOPS to work with relevant partners to rapidly resolve these issues;

**With regard to UNFPA,**

9. **Notes with appreciation** the management response to the UNFPA report on internal audit and oversight activities in 2007, the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2007, and the updated status of the audit recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors on UNFPA accounts for the period ending 31 December 2005;

10. **Requests** that future annual reports on internal audit and oversight activities provide additional explanations of the significant audit results and their causes, identify the systemic issues of concern and provide more information on quality improvements in the oversight systems of UNFPA;

11. **Expresses** support for UNFPA implementation of the national execution modality in line with General Assembly resolution 62/208, and encourages strengthening national capacity in this regard;

12. **Expresses support** for the continued strengthening of the accountability and assurance process in UNFPA and the reorganization of its internal audit and oversight services, to sustain, inter alia, an adequate frequency and coverage of internal audits, and **urges** the Executive Director to continue to strengthen risk-based audit planning and to fill vacant posts in the Division for Oversight Services;

13. **Takes note** of efforts to implement the risk model in its regional and country offices and encourages UNFPA to further implement it at all management levels and across a broad range of risks;

14. **Notes with appreciation** the development of an enterprise risk management approach, and, in this regard, **calls upon** UNFPA to update the Executive Board on its progress at the annual session 2009;

15. **Welcomes** the commitment of UNFPA to improving its internal control framework, in line with internationally recognized best practices;
16. Requests the Executive Director to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the internal control framework, in response to the findings of the UNFPA report on internal audit and oversight activities in 2007;

With regard to UNDP,

17. Notes with appreciation the management response to the report on internal audit and investigations in UNDP, the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2007, and the management response to that report;

18. Expresses continuing support for strengthening the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP, and urges the Administrator to further strengthen risk-based audit planning and to rapidly fill vacant posts in the Office of Audit and Investigations;

19. Expresses concern that 13 per cent of the ratings in the internal audit reports are ‘unsatisfactory’, that some audit findings have remained unresolved for 18 months, and that there are investigation findings on the misconduct of staff members, and requests UNDP to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on the progress made in these areas, as part of the annual report on internal audit and investigations;

20. Notes the efforts of UNDP senior management to strengthen programmatic accountability and enhance the internal capacity of the organization to address compliance issues regarding prescribed regulations, rules and procedures, and supervision by managers at country office and regional levels, and encourages UNDP to continue to include in future reports a review of progress in this regard;

21. Notes improvements in the timeliness and quality, as well as the overall outcome, of national execution audit reports;

22. Notes that specific audit procedures and guidelines are being developed in response to the use of the harmonized approach to cash transfers, and calls upon UNDP to develop such procedures and guidelines in coordination with other United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and in consultation with programme countries;

With regard to UNOPS,

23. Notes with appreciation the management response to the UNOPS report on internal audit and oversight in 2007;

24. Welcomes the establishment in 2007 of the Internal Audit Office in UNOPS and the transition from the UNDP Office of Audit and Performance Review to the UNOPS Internal Audit Office;

25. Also welcomes the establishment of the Strategy and Audit Advisory Committee in UNOPS;

26. Notes the other initiatives in UNOPS that will strengthen audit and oversight, undertaken in response to the UNOPS report on internal audit and oversight;

27. Notes the submission by UNOPS of an accountability framework and oversight policy (DP/2008/22), and requests the Executive Director of UNOPS to revert to the Executive Board with this policy at the second regular session 2008, ensuring coordination and harmonization with UNDP and UNFPA.

26 June 2008
2008/14
Annual report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) report on UNDP performance and results for 2007, (DP/2008/23), (DP/2008/23Corr.1) and the statistical annex (DP2008/23/Add.2);

2. Notes with concern that the report presents data which shows that poverty eradication practice area did not receive top priority in terms of the percentage of total spending during 2007, and emphasizes that appropriate activities should be used to support direct poverty reduction initiatives;

3. Urges UNDP to undertake relevant poverty reduction activities, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review and to give top priority to achieving Millennium Development Goals and reducing human poverty;

4. Reaffirms the commitment of UNDP to results-based management and programming;

5. Requests UNDP to continue to include, in future reports, analytical information about strategic results, including programme and project results, as well as explanations of significant deviations from expected results;

6. Also requests UNDP to include in future reports, starting at the annual session of 2009, a comprehensive comparative analysis of spending for United Nations system coordination and programming;

7. Takes note of the report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007, and urges UNDP to continue to pay particular attention to the recommendations relating to Human Resource management;

8. Notes with concern that ‘earmarked’ resources have continued to far exceed the regular resources of UNDP, and that this affects the ability of UNDP to fulfil its mandate adequately and to effectively support the development agenda of partner countries;

9. Requests UNDP to allocate sufficient levels of resources, both financial and staff, across the practice areas of the strategic plan, 2008-2011, with particular attention to least developed countries, in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to report in this regard at the annual session 2009;

10. Urges UNDP to give enhanced and appropriate priority to direct poverty reduction results while implementing the strategic plan, 2008-2011;

11. Also requests UNDP to submit a distribution of total expenditure by practice area and a distribution of regular resources expenditure by practice area at the annual session 2009 of the Executive Board;

12. Further requests UNDP to highlight, for each region, per capita programme expenditure and programme expenditure figures for the least developed countries in future reports.

27 June 2008

2008/15
Revised UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board

1. Recalls its decision 2007/32, particularly paragraphs 2 and 3;

26 June 2008

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**2008/16**

**Status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward**

*The Executive Board*

1. **Takes note of** the report on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward (DP/2008/24);

2. **Notes** that after exceeding the annual targets for 2004 and 2005, but missing the annual target for 2006, UNDP has been able to meet the fourth and overall (2007) annual funding target of its second multi-year funding framework (2004-2007);

3. **Underscores** the vital importance of maintaining the 2007 level of regular resources in 2008, so as to enable UNDP to meet the first annual funding target outlined in the integrated resources framework of the strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. **Recalls** General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System, **reiterates** that regular resources form the bedrock of UNDP finances, and **requests** all countries that have not yet done so to provide contributions to regular resources for 2008;

5. **Recognizes** that strengthening the role and capacity of UNDP to assist countries in achieving their development goals requires a commensurate increase in its resources and an expansion of its resource base on a continuous, more predictable and assured basis, as well as continuing improvement in its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact;

6. **Stresses** the importance of a stable, predictable base of regular resources, and **encourages** Member States in a position to do so to announce pledges, on a multi-year basis, and payment schedules for the new planning cycle covering the period 2008-2011, and to adhere to such pledges and payment schedules thereafter.

26 June 2008

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**2008/17**

**Annual report on evaluation (UNDP)**

*The Executive Board*

1. **Takes note of** the annual report on evaluation (DP/2008/25);

2. **Commends** UNDP for securing a predictable resource base from the core budget to support its independent evaluation function, and **underscores** the importance of ensuring quality through evidence-based evaluations and the continued independence of the Evaluation Office and its relationship with the Executive Board;

3. **Welcomes** the strengthening of the Evaluation Unit in the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and its work in drafting a corporate evaluation strategy to support the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011;
4. Urges the relevant evaluation units to provide additional information and analysis on the evaluation functions and activities of UNCDF, UNIFEM and the United Nations Volunteers programme in future annual reports on evaluation;

5. Requests the Administrator to increase oversight to improve the quality and implementation of country office evaluation plans, including, inter alia, the systematic updating and monitoring of evaluation plans, and the strengthening of regional and country office capacity and responsibility in evaluation design and methodology, while paying particular attention to regions with lower levels of country evaluation to ensure that there is sufficient coverage of evaluation of UNDP programming;

6. Also requests the Administrator to strengthen regional and country office capacities in results-based management, project design, monitoring and reporting, based on corporate tools, the design of clear, comprehensive terms of reference for evaluations, and improving the availability of resources and funding for regional and country level evaluations, including outcome evaluations;

7. Urges UNDP to strengthen senior management supervision and support for monitoring and evaluation by UNDP programme units, including the tracking of their management responses in follow-up to evaluations;

8. Encourages UNDP to continue to improve its submission and tracking of management responses;

9. Acknowledges the growing demand for UNDP to support national evaluation capacity development, and requests UNDP to continue to support national partners in developing capacities so as to exercise their national ownership in evaluation;

10. Urges UNDP to continue to improve its use of evaluation to support learning and a culture of results, and requests UNDP to provide a report to the Board on its follow-up to management responses, including follow-up actions on decentralized evaluations, at the annual session 2009;

11. Approves the assessments of development results and the activities to strengthen the evaluation function from the proposed programme of work for the Evaluation Office for 2008-2009;

12. Requests additional consultation with the Board on the new independent evaluations to be conducted by the Evaluation Office proposed in paragraph 85(b) in the programme of work for approval at the second regular session 2008;

13. Stresses the importance of clear linkages of subsequent programmes of work with the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, while taking into account the need to provide sufficient descriptions on proposed independent evaluations to be conducted by the Evaluation Office and to hold informal consultations with Board members prior to formal sessions of the Executive Board.

27 June 2008

2008/18
Evaluation of net contributor countries in the Arab region

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the evaluation of UNDP in the net contributor countries of the Arab region (DP/2008/26), its corrigenda ((DP/2008/26/Corr.1 and DP/2008/26/Corr.2) and the management response to that evaluation (DP/2008/27);

2. Requests UNDP to include the Board in its consultations concerning the review and development of criteria for continued UNDP presence in a net contributor country;
3. **Urges** UNDP to give high priority to strengthening its support to net contributor countries in the area of capacity development, based on national priorities and systems, in order to strengthen the sustainability of its programming.

   27 June 2008

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**2008/19**

**Evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Having considered* the evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations Development Group to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (DP/2008/28) and the management response thereto (DP/2008/29);

2. *Encourages* UNDP, in collaboration with other members of the United Nations Development Group, to make increased use of national systems, when appropriate and to the benefit of programme countries, in order to strengthen national capacities and reduce transaction costs;

3. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 62/208, which encourages the strengthening of evaluation activities, with particular focus on development results, including through the promotion of collaborative approaches to evaluation, including joint evaluations; and in this regard *encourages* UNDP to continue to conduct joint evaluations with other United Nations organizations on development effectiveness while retaining a focus on the accountability of UNDP, in order to increase the value of evaluation to programme countries;

4. *Also encourages* UNDP, after consultation with other relevant United Nations organizations, to undertake further informal consultations with the Executive Board to determine the appropriate intergovernmental forum for the evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

   26 June 2008

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**2008/20**

**Annual report of the Executive Director**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) (DP/2008/32);

2. *Welcomes* the progress of UNOPS towards improving effectiveness and efficiency in line with its business strategy;

3. *Takes note of* the contributions to the operational results of the United Nations;

4. *Also takes note of* the 2007 UNOPS business acquisition, which demonstrates growing confidence on the part of UNOPS partners.

5. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNOPS to submit to the Executive Board a report on the governance structure of UNOPS for discussion at the second regular session 2008.

   26 June 2008
2008/21
Results-oriented annual report of the Executive Director (United Nations Capital Development Fund)

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the results-oriented annual report (DP/2008/33) of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), including the section on the implementation of the UNCDF cost-recovery policy;

2. Notes with appreciation the contributions that UNCDF has been able to make to development outcomes in the least developed countries in the area of local development and inclusive finance, while implementing its business plan, 2005-2007: Investing in the LDCs;

3. Notes with concern that UNCDF did not reach its 2007 resource mobilization targets, even though there has been an upward trend in UNCDF regular and other resources;

4. Reiterates its request that UNDP and UNCDF continue their efforts to secure stable programme funding for UNCDF activities, and reiterates its call to donor countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries;

5. Requests the UNCDF management to report on the implementation of the cost recovery policy, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, for consideration at the second regular session 2009;

6. Requests the Administrator to appoint, as soon as possible, a new Executive Secretary for UNCDF.

27 June 2008

2008/22

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers programme (DP/2008/34);

2. Appreciates the continued expansion of the scope and complexity of United Nations Volunteers programme activities and the progress made in operationalizing its business model and reporting on results and the related alignment of staff, resources and programming;

3. Welcomes the initiatives taken to develop new partnerships and enhance the substantive contributions made by the United Nations Volunteers programme to building capacities and promoting volunteerism in support of programme countries;

4. Reiterates its call on the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue efforts to integrate volunteerism into their policies, programmes and reports, including those relating to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

5. Notes that the United Nations Volunteers programme can effectively contribute, at the community level, to addressing environmental sustainability, including climate change, and encourages the United Nations Volunteers programme to engage in community-level natural resources management and climate mitigation and adaptation activities, upon request by programme countries.
6. Notes, in that regard, the catalytic role of resources from the Special Voluntary Fund in supporting pilot interventions and research to promote volunteerism for development;

7. Also notes that the contributions to the United Nations Volunteers Special Voluntary Fund reached $6.7 million in 2007, and encourages countries in position to do so to contribute to this fund to enable the United Nations Volunteers programme to further explore, expand and strengthen the role of volunteerism and volunteer contributions to development;

8. Commends the United Nations Volunteers programme for its results in gender parity at senior levels and among staff, as well as for its progress in programmatic gender mainstreaming;

9. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system to increase their efforts towards achieving gender parity in the recruitment of United Nations Volunteers;

10. Reaffirms its support for the United Nations Volunteers programme as focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, in line with General Assembly resolution 60/134, including leadership in reporting on follow-up.

26 June 2008

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2008/23
United Nations Development Fund for Women –Annual report and cost recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) programme (DP/2008/35), and the response to decision 2008/3, which asked UNIFEM to report on the implementation of the cost recovery policy;

2. Recognizes the achievements towards the results identified in the multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, welcomes the significant growth in UNIFEM resources, and calls upon all countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions, especially to UNIFEM regular (‘core’) resources, including through multi-year pledges;

3. Requests UNIFEM to avoid using core resources to cover costs related to the management of extrabudgetary resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/208;

4. Decides that, and consistent with similar approaches in other United Nations funds and programmes, a recovery rate of 7 per cent be adopted for recovery of indirect support costs for new third-party contributions and a rate of 5 per cent on programme country cost-sharing contributions;

5. Recognizes that these cost recovery rates may be further refined to reflect a full cost recovery rate following consideration of this item by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2009;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the cost recovery, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, and with possible options of rate variations, taking into account execution modalities and management expenses, for consideration at that second regular session 2009, in conjunction with the medium-term review of the strategic plan and the submission of the biennial support, 2011;

7. Stresses that other (‘non-core’) resources should continue to support the UNIFEM strategic plan priorities and results, and encourages UNIFEM to monitor its cost-recovery policy to ensure that regular resources do not subsidize the support costs for projects and programmes funded by other resources;
8. Decides to maintain the authority of the Executive Director of UNIFEM to grant waivers to the cost recovery rate through a case-by-case review, taking into account the financial impact on the organization, and requests that UNIFEM inform the Executive Board of all exceptions in the annual financial reporting;

9. Urges UNIFEM to continue harmonizing its cost classification and cost recovery policy with other United Nations funds and programmes.

27 June 2008

2008/24
UNDP engagement in direct budget support and pooled funds

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report contained in document DP/2008/36;

2. Welcomes aid effectiveness aimed at ensuring the highest development impact, recognizes that country ownership and capacity building and development are fundamental elements of aid effectiveness, and, in this regard, stresses the role of UNDP in supporting developing countries in these processes;

3. Recalls resolution 62/208, in which the General Assembly encourages the United Nations development system to be invited to participate, ex officio, in current and new aid modalities and coordination mechanisms, at the request of the programme country, and invites the United Nations development system to enhance its participation in this regard;

4. Stresses the importance of building national capacity, simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures and regulations, welcomes the efforts of UNDP to harmonize and align its activities in the context of the new aid environment, encourages UNDP to continue discussions on this approach within the United Nations Development Group, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, and to ensure adequate institutional staff training;

5. Requests UNDP to give preference to engagement in direct budget support, in the form of sector budget support, as a signatory, without fiduciary obligation, taking into account the views of programme countries;

6. Endorses, in principle, a four-year pilot period, starting in September 2008, for enabling UNDP financial contributions to pooled funding and sector budget support, on a case-by-case basis, upon the request of the recipient country and in accordance with the mandate and comparative advantage of UNDP, within the limitations and provisions provided in document DP/2008/36;

7. Requests UNDP to prepare an additional report for approval by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2008, including: (a) an update on the common approach among the United Nations Development Group towards the changing aid environment, (b) an analysis of the role of UNDP in the new aid environment, also in relation to other development partners, while emphasizing the further efforts of UNDP to achieve greater harmonization and alignment, and (c) a further elaboration of the criteria of engagement in sector budget support and pooled funding, and indicators to measure the effectiveness of this new aid modality;

8. Urges UNDP to sign the memorandum of understanding between the programme country and all participating development partners, which is the basis for the provision of sector budget support in that country;
9. Approves, for the duration of the pilot period, the proposed changes in the regulations and rules as contained in document DP/2008/36, including the requirements for direct financial contributions set out in box 1, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and recognizes that these rules and regulations may be further refined, if necessary, in the context of the harmonized regulations and rules currently under consideration in the United Nations.

10. Requests UNDP, during the pilot period, to include a progress report on the pilot in the annual report of the Administrator, and an overview of contributions to pooled funding and sector budget support in the annual review of the financial situation;

11. Also requests UNDP to prepare a report at the end of the pilot period, including: (a) an evaluation and an audit of the pilot on the basis of the criteria outlined in document DP/2008/36, and (b) an update on UNDP efforts towards the harmonization of regulations and rules under consideration in the United Nations, including the changes needed to allow participation in pooled funding and sector budget support;

12. Further requests UNDP to organize regular informal consultations with the Executive Board on progress with the pilot and the preparation of the reports requested in the present decision.

27 June 2008

2008/25
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2008

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2008, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 2008 (DP/2008/L.2);

Approved the report of the first regular session 2008 (DP/2008/18); and

Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2008 and 2009:

- Second regular session 2008: 8 to 12 September 2008
- First regular session 2009: 19 to 22 January 2009
- Annual session 2009: 26 May to 5 June 2009 (New York)
- Second regular session 2009: 8 to 11 September 2009

Adopted the tentative work plan for the second regular session 2008 of the Executive Board.

UNFPA segment

Item 2
Annual report of the Executive Director

Adopted decision 2008/9 on the report of the Executive Director for 2007, including the statistical and financial review.

Item 3
Funding commitments to UNFPA
Adopted decision 2008/10 on funding commitments to UNFPA.

Item 4
Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)
Adopted decision 2008/11 on UNFPA and UNDP draft country programme documents.

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Benin (DP/FPA/DCP/BEN/7)
Draft country programme document for the Republic of the Congo (DP/FPA/DCP/COG/4)
Draft country programme document for Niger (DP/FPA/DCP/NER/7)
Draft country programme document for Nigeria (DP/FPA/DCP/NGA/6)

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia
Draft country programme document for Sudan (DP/FPA/DCP/SDN/5)

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi (DP/FPA/2008/6) and the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan (DP/FPA/2008/8);

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan (DP/FPA/2008/8), Ecuador and Guatemala (DP/FPA/2008/7).

Item 5
Evaluation (UNFPA)
Adopted decision 2008/12 on evaluation in UNFPA.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 6
Internal audit and oversight
Adopted decision 2008/13 on internal audit and oversight in UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Item 7
Field visits

Took note of the report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to Haiti (DP/FPA/2008/CRP.1-E/ICEF/2008/CRP.11) and of the report on the field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP and of UNFPA to Kazakhstan (DP/2008/CRP.3-DP/FPA/2008/CRP.2).

UNDP segment

Item 8
Annual report of the Administrator
Adopted decision 2008/14 on the annual report of the Administrator;


Item 9
UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011
Item 10
Funding commitments to UNDP
Adopted decision 2008/16 on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward.

Item 11
Evaluation in UNDP
Adopted decision 2008/17 on the annual report on evaluation;
Adopted decision 2008/18 on evaluation of net contributor countries in the Arab region;
Adopted decision 2008/19 on the evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Item 12
Human Development Report

Item 13
Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)
Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Benin (DP/DCP/BEN/1)
Draft country programme document for Mauritius (DCP/DCP/MUS/2)
Draft country programme document for Nigeria (DP/DCP/NGA/1)

Arab States
Draft country programme document for Sudan (DP/DCP/SDN/1)

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Republic of Korea and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan (DP/2008/31).

Item 14
United Nations Office for Project Services
Adopted decision 2008/20 on the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Item 15
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Item 16
United Nations Volunteers

Item 17
United Nations Development Fund for Women
Adopted decision 2008/23 on the UNIFEM annual report and cost-recovery policy.

Item 18
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (UNDP)
Adopted decision 2008/24 on UNDP engagement in direct budget support and pooled funds.
Item 19
South-South cooperation

Took note of the draft fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/CF/SSC/4).

Item 20
Other matters

Held a special event (panel discussion) on moving beyond commitments to deliver on Millennium Development Goal 5: the role of UNFPA and its partners;

Held a panel discussion on humanitarian response (UNFPA);

Held a briefing on the report of the external independent investigative review of UNDP operations in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

27 June 2008

2008/26
Revision of the financial regulations of UNDP and UNFPA

The Executive Board,

Recognizing that the number and gravity of attacks and threats against United Nations personnel have increased substantially over the past several years, and

Acknowledging that United Nations organizations should be able to respond to such incidences in a timely and appropriate manner,

With regard to UNDP,

1. Takes note of the report on the revision of the financial regulations of UNDP (DP/2008/41) and the corresponding report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/2008/42);

2. Decides that financial regulation 23.01, contained in document DP/2008/41, should read as follows:

“(a) The Administrator may make such ex gratia payments, not exceeding $75,000 per year, as he or she deems necessary in the interest of UNDP. A statement of such payments should be included in the audited financial statements, except as set forth in paragraph (b) below:

(b) In the case of an emergency where, at the discretion of the Administrator, immediate ex gratia payments are necessary for humanitarian reasons (in instances such as injury or death suffered in connection with UNDP activities), the Administrator may make such payments in accordance with paragraph (a) above, except that such payments shall be without limitation as to the amount. The Administrator shall immediately inform the Executive Board when any single situation results in payments totalling in excess of $50,000.”

3. Takes note of the corresponding change in financial rule 123.01.

With regard to UNFPA,

4. Takes note of the report on the revision of the financial regulations of UNFPA (DP/FPA/2008/15 and DP/FPA/2008/15/Corr.1) and the corresponding report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/FPA/2008/16);

5. Notes that UNFPA has disbursed $47,609 in ex gratia payments in 2008, and that this amount will be reflected in the UNFPA financial statements for the biennium 2008-2009;
6. **Recognizes** that the above payment exceeded the limit of $25,000 imposed under financial regulation 14.5 for ex gratia payments;

7. **Approves**, on an ex post facto basis, the amount paid in excess of the above limit, in view of humanitarian and moral considerations;

8. **Decides** that financial regulation 14.5, contained in document DP/FPA/2008/15, should read as follows:

   “(a) The Executive Director may make such ex gratia payments, not exceeding $75,000 per year, as he or she deems necessary in the interest of UNFPA. A statement of such payments should be included in the audited financial statements, except as set forth in paragraph (b) below:

   (b) In the case of an emergency where, at the discretion of the Executive Director, immediate ex gratia payments are necessary for humanitarian reasons (in instances such as injury or death suffered in connection with UNFPA activities), the Executive Director may make such payments in accordance with paragraph (a) above, except that such payments shall be without limitation as to the amount. The Executive Director shall immediately inform the Executive Board when any single situation results in payments totalling in excess of $50,000.”

9. **Takes note of** the corresponding change in financial rule 114.9.

   *11 September 2008*

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### 2008/27

**Annual review of the financial situation, 2007**

*The Executive Board*

1. **Takes note of** the annual review of the financial situation (DP/2008/39) and the detailed information contained in its addendum (DP/2008/39/Add.1);

2. **Encourages** all Member States to support UNDP in reaching the resource targets set out in the strategic plan and to commit, as early as possible, their contributions to UNDP regular resources for the years 2008 and onwards, through multi-year pledges if possible; and

3. **Recognizes** the importance of funding predictability in helping effective programme planning by UNDP.

   *12 September 2008*

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### 2008/28

**Report on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2006-2007**

*The Executive Board*

1. **Takes note of** the report of the Administrator on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2006-2007 (DP/2008/43), recognizing that this will be the last report submitted on IAPSO based on the successful implementation of the partial merger of certain IAPSO functions with UNOPS on 1 January 2008;

2. **Notes** the implementation by UNDP and UNOPS teams the partial merger transition process, especially in relation to business transfer and human resources activities.

   *12 September 2008*
Role of UNDP in the changing aid environment at the country level

The Executive Board

1. Recalls its decision 2008/24;

2. Takes note of the report on the role of UNDP in the changing aid environment at the country level (DP/2008/53), and approves implementation of the pilot programme as set out below;

3. Notes the report as a follow-up to DP/2008/36 and as a response to the request of the Executive Board, in its decision 2008/24, for an additional report, and requests the Administrator to post on the Executive Board website further information as requested in decision 2008/24, paragraph 7, before releasing any funds to a pilot country, including greater detail in the criteria of engagement in sector budget support and pooled funding (which, per 2008/53, UNDP will issue as internal operational guidance to its country offices), and greater precision with respect to the indicators and benchmarks to be used to measure the effectiveness and results of the pilot programme and the potential for UNDP participation in this aid modality;

4. Recalls the importance of building national capacity, simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures and regulations, and considers ex officio participation of the United Nations development system in current and new aid modalities to be the most appropriate option in this regard;

5. Encourages UNDP to pursue this approach with the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office to ensure synergy and common approaches in the United Nations system response to the changing aid environment;

6. Requests UNDP to include, in its annual financial review of the situation, the status of expenditures of any such fund to which it contributes.

12 September 2008

Evaluation of the role and contribution of UNDP in the environment and energy

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the present evaluation of the role and contribution of UNDP in the environment and energy and of the management response thereto (DP/2008/47);

2. Takes note of the conclusions that: (a) environment and energy significantly contribute to the core UNDP mission of poverty reduction, and (b) the role of UNDP in environment and energy management within the United Nations system is potentially important, especially at the country level, taking into account the principal role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in this area, and emphasizing the cooperation with UNEP in this context and within the mandate of UNDP;

3. Emphasizes the need for UNDP to strengthen national capacity development in the environment and energy, keeping in mind the mission and capabilities of the organization, as well as the need to respond to the national sustainable development priorities of programme countries;

4. Urges UNDP to improve its responsiveness to the national priorities, especially in view of the specific needs of least developed countries and small island developing States;

5. Requests the Administrator to identify and implement institutional mechanisms and incentives, including cooperation and coordination with other United Nations organizations, to
mainstream the environment and energy into all major practice areas, and to strengthen environment and energy capacities throughout the organization, including, and especially, in UNDP country offices.

6. Requests the Administrator to report orally to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2009 on the UNDP strategy on the environment and energy, based on the evaluation (DP/2008/46), and on the finalization of its memorandum of understanding with UNEP.

11 September 2008

2008/31
Programme of work of the Evaluation Office

The Executive Board

1. Recalls its decision 2008/17;

2. Takes note of the additional information on the programme of work of the Evaluation Office for 2008-2009 provided during the additional consultations and in document DP/2008/49;

3. Approves the independent evaluations contained in the programme of work of the Evaluation Office for 2008-2009 and in DP/2008/49, and stresses the importance of clear linkages of subsequent programmes of work with the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

12 September 2008

2008/32
Evaluation of the third UNDP global cooperation framework
UNDP global programme, 2009-2011

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the conclusions of the evaluation of the third global cooperation programme framework (DP/2008/44), and of the management response to this evaluation (DP/2008/45), and requests UNDP to continue to fully reflect them in the new fourth global framework (2009-2011) and in its implementation;

Having considered the UNDP global programme, 2009-2011 (DP/GP/2),

2. Reaffirms that all activities under the UNDP global programme 2009-2011 will be fully consistent with the provisions of General Assembly Resolution 62/208 of December 2007 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review; and the Revised 2008-2011 UNDP Strategic Plan (DP/2007/43/Rev.1 and Rev.2) as amended pursuant to Executive Board decision 2007/32 of October 2007, and as endorsed by Executive Board decision 2008/15;

3. Recognizes that support to capacity-building and development constitutes the overarching contribution of UNDP in assisting the efforts of programme countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and underlines that the emphasis of capacity-building includes institutional and human capacity-building in accordance with their national plans and strategies;

4. Requests the Administrator in the context of the proposals to be presented to the Executive Board in line with decision 2008/1 on realigning the cost classification of UNDP activities, to include proposals on the future classification of the organization’s policy advisory capacities;

5. Also requests the Administrator to include, in his annual report to the annual sessions of the Executive Board, improvements and implementation of the global programme, 2009-2011,
notes that a midterm review of the global programme, 2009-2011, will be submitted to the annual session of the Executive Board 2010, and a final comprehensive report on performance and results submitted to the Executive Board at the annual session 2012.

6. Decides that this decision will serve as the preface to and be an integral part of the UNDP global programme, 2009-2011; and in that regard approves the UNDP global programme, 2009-2011, taking into account the guidance of this decision, as well as the comments of Member States.

12 September 2008

2008/33
Status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2004-2005 (UNOPS)

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the biennium 2004-2005 (DP/2008/50);

2. Acknowledges the progress made since the release of the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors on 29 June 2007.

12 September 2008

2008/34
Procurement activities of the United Nations system organizations

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the annual statistical report on the procurement activities of the United Nations system organizations (DP/2008/51);

2. Welcomes the data presentation and analysis contained in the report.

12 September 2008

2008/35
Governance structure of UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report on the governance structure of the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/2008/52);

2. Approves the amended role and function of the Management Coordination Committee – to be renamed the Policy Advisory Committee – as outlined in the present report.

3. Requests UNOPS to submit for approval at the first regular session 2009, a comprehensively revised set of UNOPS financial regulations and rules, taking into account the changes in the governance structure of UNOPS as well as the specifics of the UNOPS business model;

4. Recommends that the Secretary-General delegate authority to the UNOPS Executive Director to administer United Nations staff rules and regulations in respect of UNOPS staff.

12 September 2008
2008/36
Fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/CF/SSC/4/Rev.1), and requests UNDP to take into account the recommendations made by Member States in its implementation;

2. Welcomes the results-oriented approach of the framework;

3. Encourages Member States in a position to do so to support UNDP and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in fully implementing the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation.

12 September 2008

2008/37
Internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalls its previous decisions concerning internal audit and oversight in UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, including 2006/13, 2007/29, 2007/44, 2008/8 and 2008/13; and recalls General Assembly resolution 59/272;

2. Notes with appreciation the efforts of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to strengthen management, accountability, oversight and transparency in a harmonized and standardized way;

3. Takes note of the report on the UNDP accountability system (DP/2008/16/Rev.1) and approves the accountability framework and oversight policy contained therein, subject to the provisions of this decision;

4. Also takes note of the report on the UNFPA oversight policy (DP/FPA/2008/14) and approves the oversight policy contained therein, subject to the provisions of this decision;

5. Further takes note of the report on the UNOPS accountability and oversight policies (DP/2008/55) and approves the accountability framework and oversight policies set out therein, subject to the provisions of this decision;

6. Reaffirms the operational independence of all oversight mechanisms, including those related to audit, oversight and ethics;

7. Underscores the importance of Executive Board oversight and recognizes that nothing in the above-mentioned reports should restrict the authority of the Executive Board, as set out in its Rules of Procedure;

8. Underlines the importance of enhanced results-based management for the accountability of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to States members of the United Nations;

9. Urges the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS, in appointing (a) members of their Audit Advisory Committees; (b) directors of their Ethics Offices; and (c) directors of the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations and the UNFPA Division for Oversight Services, and the Head of the UNOPS Internal Audit Office; while applying existing guidelines\(^2\), to ensure the avoidance of conflicts of interest;

\(^2\) United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes (ST/SGB/2007/11);
UNDP: Charter of the Office of Audit and Investigations and terms of reference of the Audit Advisory Committee, 8 February 2008;
UNFPA: Charter of the Division for Oversight Services and terms of reference of the Audit Advisory Committee, 22 January 2007;
UNOPS: Internal Audit Charter (Organizational Directive number 25, 29 April 2008) and terms of reference of the Strategy and
10. Decides that the Ethics Office of UNDP should submit a report to the Executive Board at its annual session;

11. Reaffirms the prerogative of the Executive Board to approve country programmes, and also reaffirms the importance of continuity in supporting programme countries, and underscores the value of internal audit reports as management tools to improve the capacity of country offices;

12. Decides, after taking into consideration the views expressed by the members of the Executive Board, that the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS may disclose internal audit reports to Member States in accordance with the relevant provisions stipulated in documents DP/2008/16/Rev.1, DP/FPA/2008/14 and DP/2008/55, and in accordance with the provisions of this decision, exercising the greatest extent of discretion and protecting the legitimate rights of the programme country;

13. Requests the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to immediately inform the Executive Board and the concerned Government of the request for internal audit reports, prior to disclosure, with a copy of the request provided by the requesting party, and to provide the concerned Government with adequate time to view and comment on the report;

14. Reaffirms that information disclosed shall be kept confidential, and that written requests for access to internal audit reports should include the reason and purpose for the request and an affirmation to adhere to the procedures of disclosure, as stipulated in documents DP/2008/16/Rev.1, DP/FPA/2008/14 and DP/2008/55;

15. Requests UNFPA to provide the Executive Board with the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee and the management response thereto, as annexes to the annual report on internal audit and oversight;

16. Requests UNOPS to provide the Executive Board with an annual report from the Strategy and Audit and Advisory Committees, and the management response thereto, as annexes to the annual report on internal audit and oversight;

17. Requests the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to orally report on the implementation of this decision at the second regular session 2009 of the Executive Board;

18. Requests the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to submit, for consideration by the Executive Board, at its annual session 2010, a report on the implementation of this decision, including, inter alia, the number of requests for internal audit reports; the conclusions of reviews by the Audit Advisory Committees of the implementation of this decision, including audit information redacted or withheld from disclosure; and confirmation of adherence to the principle of confidentiality for audit information disclosed to members of the Executive Board.

19 September 2008

Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA at its second regular session 2008

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its second regular session 2008, it:
Item 1

Organizational matters

Approved the agenda and work plan for the second regular session 2008 (DP/2008/L.3);

Approved the report of the annual session 2008 (DP/2008/37);

Agreed to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2009:

Election of the Bureau for 2009: 9 January 2009
First regular session 2009: 19 to 22 January 2009
Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP:
23 and 26 January 2009 (tentative)
Annual session 2009: 26 May to 5 June 2009 (New York)

UNFPA segment

Item 7

Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2008/26 on the revision of the financial regulations of UNDP and UNFPA

Took note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/FPA/2008/16) on the revision of financial regulations (UNFPA).

Item 8

Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)

Approved the following country programmes on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion, in accordance with decision 2006/36:

Africa: Benin, Republic of the Congo, Niger and Nigeria;

Arab States: Sudan;

Approved the third one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon;

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Angola (DP/FPA/DCP/AGO/6)
Draft country programme document for Côte d’Ivoire (DP/FPA/DCP/CIV/6)
Draft country programme document for Kenya (DP/FPA/DCP/KEN/7)
Draft country programme document for Mauritania (DP/FPA/DCP/MRT/6)

Asia and the Pacific
Draft country programme document for Timor-Leste (DP/FPA/DCP/TLS/2)

Latin America and the Caribbean
Draft country programme document for Haiti (DP/FPA/DCP/HTI/4)
Draft country programme document for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
(DP/FPA/DCP/VEN/2)
UNDP segment

Item 2
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2008/26 on revision of the financial regulations of UNDP and UNFPA;
Adopted decision 2008/27 on the annual review of the financial situation, 2007 (UNDP);
Adopted decision 2008/28 on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2006-2007;
Adopted decision 2008/29 on the role of UNDP in the changing aid environment at the country level;
Took note of the report on the information on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures 2007 (DP/2008/40) and its addendum (DP/2008/40/Add.1).

Item 3
Evaluation in UNDP

Adopted decision 2008/30 on the role and contribution of UNDP in the environment and energy;
Adopted decision 2008/31 on the programme of work of the Evaluation Office.

Item 4
Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2008/32 on the evaluation of the third global cooperation framework and of the fourth global programme, 2009-2011;
Approved the following country programmes on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion, in accordance with decision 2006/36:

Africa: Benin, Mauritius, Nigeria;
Arab States: Sudan;

Approved a second one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi and the third one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon;
Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Angola (DP/DCP/AGO/2)
Draft country programme document for Côte d’Ivoire (DP/DCP/CIV/1)
Draft country programme document for Kenya (DP/DCP/KEN/1)
Draft country programme document for Mauritania (DP/DCP/MRT/1)
Draft country programme document for Niger (DP/DCP/NER/1)
Draft country programme document for the Republic of the Congo (DP/DCP/COG/1)

Asia and the Pacific
Draft country programme document for Timor-Leste (DP/DCP/TLS/1)

Latin America and the Caribbean
Draft country programme document for Haiti (DP/DCP/HTI/1)
Draft country programme document for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (DP/DCP/VEN/1)
Organized an oral briefing on the UNDP response to the humanitarian emergency created by cyclone Nargis.

**Item 5**

**United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS))**

Adopted decision 2008/33 on the status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2004-2005;
Adopted decision 2008/34 on procurement activities of the United Nations system organizations;
Adopted decision 2008/35 on the governance structure of UNOPS.

**Item 6**

**South-South cooperation**

Adopted decision 2008/36 on the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation.

**Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment**

**Item 9**

**Follow-up to the meeting of the Programming Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS**

Took note of the report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programming Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP/2008/54-DP/FPA/2008/13).

**Item 10**

**Internal audit and oversight**

Adopted decision 2008/37 on internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS).

**Item 15**

**Other matters**

Held the following informal briefings and consultations:

**UNDP**

Held informal consultations on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

*19 September 2008*
# TENTATIVE WORK PLAN
## EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA
### FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2009
(19 to 22 January 2009, New York)

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**Choose one day's agenda for a detailed view:**

**Monday, 19 January**

- **Item 1 (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.):**
  - Organizational Matters
    - Adoption of the agenda and work plan for the session
    - Adoption of the report on the second regular session 2008
    - Adoption of the annual work plan 2009 of the Executive Board

- **Item 2 (3 – 5 p.m.):**
  - Financial, Budgetary and Administrative Matters
    - Report on cost classification (decision 2008/1)
  - Financial, Budgetary and Administrative Matters (cont’d)
  - Country Programmes and Related Matters
    - Approval of country programme documents

**Tuesday, 20 January**

- **Item 1 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.):**
  - UNFPA Segment
    - Statement by the Executive Director

- **Item 2 (3 – 5 p.m.):**
  - Country Programmes and Related Matters
    - Approval of country programme documents

**Wednesday, 21 January**

- **Item 1 (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.):**
  - UNOPS

- **Item 4 (3 – 5 p.m.):**
  - Recommendations of the Board of Auditors
    - Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2006-2007

**Thursday, 22 January**

- **Item 8 (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.):**
  - Other Matters
    - Adoption of pending decisions

**Friday, 23 January**

- **Item 1: Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP**
  - (Dates to be agreed by UNICEF and WFP)