



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)

- 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 different alternatives of adjusting the date of the second regular session, mindful that it does not overlap with the other schedules;
- Present practical proposals for improving the efficiency of the sessions of the Executive Board, including reviewing the agenda items and the efficient consideration of these.



I. 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

Timing, Topics and Conduct of Business

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

- Other proposals include February or 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 could be of joint relevance and interest, such as on sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, UNDS reform, cost recovery and working methods.
- Documentation for the JMB could be based on existing documentation produced for each of the respective Board in order to prevent duplication.
- Time limits for national and group interventions as well as agency/entity presentations, in line with the format followed in the formal sessions of the Executive Boards.



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

- *Option 1:* Convene the second regular session in early September, with a one-day JMB, followed by consecutive one-day Board sessions (2 days for UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS) for each Board, all totaling one week
- *Option 2:* Convene the second regular session once every two years for the approval of the respective Strategic Plans and budgets, held in early September in the relevant years. The secretariats have assessed that any item normally considered at the second regular session could be moved to the first regular or annual session.
- *Option 3:* Convene the second regular session once every two years in October or November. Currently, this would not be allowed, as the General Assembly is in session; thus, a waiver from the Committee on Conferences would need to be granted every year. The agenda items for this second regular session would be the same as in option 2, the only difference would be the timing of the session.

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.



Joint proposals

- Only items for decision should be part of the formal sessions.
- The secretariat will endeavor to prevent time gaps during the formal session. Delegations should be prepared to move immediately into the next item if an item finishes earlier than scheduled.
- More joint informal briefings could be considered for the NY-based Boards (i.e. Funding Compact discussion in August 2019).
- Timers and microphone cut-off will be used for time management (3 min for single and 5 min group statements). The secretariats will continue to ensure that agency/entity presenters are efficient in the use of their respective time.
- Continued practice of starting negotiations on the draft decisions as early as possible, at least one day before the start of each session.

Agency/Board-specific efficiencies and proposals:

- The UNDP and UNFPA country programme documents (CPD) agenda items could be discussed jointly. The agencies could also explore the possibility of having a joint informal on CPDs that also includes sister-agencies.
- The UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS secretariats wish to completely stop printing documentation for all meetings in compliance with the ‘Greening the United Nations Initiative’.
- The joint UNDP/UNFPA item on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board during the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Board could be removed and instead discussed during an informal consultation or Joint Meeting of the Boards.