



Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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Organizational matters

Report on the annual session of 2012, 29 May to 1 June 2012

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Organizational matters	2
III. Opening statement by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director	2
IV. Progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013	3
V. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters	6
VI. Report on the regional architecture	6
VII. Evaluation	7
VIII. Side events	8
IX. Closing remarks	9
Annexes	
I. Decisions adopted at the annual session of 2012	11
II. Proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2012, 28-30 November 2012	15



I. Introduction

1. The annual session of 2012 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 29 May to 1 June 2012.
2. The session was opened by the President of the Executive Board, Kim Sook (Republic of Korea). He noted that the session represented an important milestone, since the documents before the Board for its consideration included the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013 (UNW/2012/4) and her report on the regional architecture (UNW/2012/5). Those two reports offered an insightful look at the progress UN-Women had made in the context of its strategic plan, 2011-2013, as well as a view of the strategy of UN-Women in strengthening its regional structure and positioning the Entity to more effectively adhere to its mandate.
3. The President informed the Executive Board that, owing to an unforeseen extension in negotiations on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which he was chairing, he would be unable to preside over the annual session of the Executive Board. Vice-Presidents Fernando Fernández-Arias (Spain) and John Alhassan Gana (Nigeria) co-chaired the annual session of the Executive Board on behalf of the President.

II. Organizational matters

4. The Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2012 (UNW/2012/L.3) and the report of the first regular session of 2012 (UNW/2012/3).
5. The Executive Board adopted four decisions (2012/2, 2012/3, 2012/4 and 2012/5), the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.
6. The Executive Board also approved the proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2012, as contained in annex II to the present report.

III. Opening statement by the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director

7. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director welcomed delegations, in particular the newly elected members of the Executive Board and the Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality of Spain, Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla, to the annual session of 2012 of the Board, and outlined the reports before the Board. The Head of the Entity stressed the need to reflect on achievements made over one year of operations and to commit to maintaining a productive spirit.
8. The preparation of the report on the progress made on the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011-2013 (UNW/2012/4) was highlighted as an important step taken by the Entity towards the fulfilment of its mandate. Elaborating on progress in the areas of

political participation, economic empowerment, violence against women and girls and peace and security, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director gave several examples of progress. She highlighted the commitment of UN-Women to working through inter-agency coordination and country-level presence while addressing key challenges.

9. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director stated that the report on the regional architecture follows the direction that the Executive Board set out in the strategic plan and the approved institutional budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (see UNW/2011/13, decision 2011/5) to strengthen capacity of the Entity on the ground, not only to achieve results at the country level, but also to ensure better linkages between the normative and operational aspects of the mandate of UN-Women. The regional architecture review was guided by five principles: (a) decentralize authority to regions and countries; (b) maximize impact from existing resources of UN-Women and synergies with other organizations; (c) serve the Entity's coordination function in the United Nations system; (d) assure quality and accountability across all levels of the organization; and (e) formulate a structure that would ensure coherence for the role, advocacy and mandate of UN-Women.

10. The report on the UN-Women evaluation function, 2011 (UNW/2012/8) describes a two-pronged evaluation strategy that addresses both the ways in which evaluation of the Entity's programmes would be strengthened, and the ways in which UN-Women could contribute to gender-responsive evaluations across the United Nations system. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director noted the key findings of the report, recognizing the need for improvement in such aspects as the completion rate of planned evaluations and the low rate of response from management.

11. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director noted that the report on the proposed revision to financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNW/2012/6) contained primarily adjustments needed to harmonize terminology, as a result of the implementation of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS) at the beginning of 2012.

12. In concluding, she stressed the significance of a number of upcoming intergovernmental meetings, including those related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the discussions of the post-2015 development agenda, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She called on Board members to be ambassadors, not only for UN-Women, but also for gender equality, in all these processes.

IV. Progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013

13. Directly following the opening statement of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director, the Executive Board began its consideration of the report on the progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013.

14. Delegations expressed strong support and appreciation for the progress made by UN-Women in the implementation of its strategic plan. Several speakers commended UN-Women for providing support to Member States in achieving

national priorities through the implementation of the six focus areas of the Entity. Delegations noted the work of UN-Women towards, for example, ending violence against women and empowering women economically, and engaging men and boys in this regard. Economic empowerment was cited as a necessary component of overall development, poverty reduction and food security.

15. Speakers also highlighted the work of UN-Women in empowering women in post-conflict situations and promoting the “Women, peace and security” agenda. One delegation emphasized the impact of women peacekeeping officers in the context of Liberia, where the presence of an all-women peacekeeping police force from India had contributed to greater participation of women in law enforcement.

16. Delegations commended UN-Women on the Entity’s coordination and partnership initiatives, specifically the leadership of UN-Women in spearheading the development of the United Nations system-wide action plan for gender equality. Delegations also commended UN-Women for its work in establishing a Global Civil Society Advisory Group, as well as the already established Civil Society Advisory Group for Latin America and the Caribbean. One delegation noted the significant number of chief executive officers who had signed the UN-Women/United Nations Global Compact Women’s Empowerment Principles.

17. Delegations called for increased attention to both least developed and middle-income countries. Several delegations requested the support of UN-Women in capacity-building and technical assistance, in order to achieve their national priorities. Peru expressed interest in working with UN-Women to establish gender-responsive budgeting.

18. A number of sectoral issues were mentioned. One delegation recommended that UN-Women include in the Entity’s work women who are targeted as a result of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Another speaker recalled paragraph 10 of Executive Board decision 2011/3 and the request to the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to emphasize education as an important instrument for the empowerment of women.

19. Speakers emphasized that UN-Women played an important role in shaping the international normative framework and supported the involvement of UN-Women in such upcoming intergovernmental forums as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council, the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

20. Delegations specifically noted the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as an important step in establishing a strong gender perspective in the sustainable development agenda. Speakers also emphasized the Conference as an occasion for UN-Women to promote the economic empowerment of women. It was noted that the years 2012-2015 would be critical for the equality agenda and provide unique opportunities for new thinking and new frameworks for the advancement of women.

21. Speakers underscored the critical role of UN-Women in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, the development of the post-2015 development agenda and in ensuring that gender equality and the empowerment of women remained a priority in the United Nations development agenda.

22. Delegations stressed the need for continued financial support to UN-Women in order to increase the Entity's impact on the ground. One delegation expressed concern over the majority of core contributions to UN-Women coming from a limited pool of donors.

23. A number of speakers commended the 60 per cent increase in contributions since the biennium 2010-2011. However, since reductions in resources would have adverse effects on programming, UN-Women should continue to enhance efforts towards creating partnerships with non-traditional donors.

24. Delegations made a number of recommendations with regard to the Entity's future reporting on the strategic plan. Some suggested that UN-Women should outline in more detail information on the following: equitable geographic distribution; lessons learned; national ownership and the Entity's universal mandate. Speakers looked forward to the revision of the results-based framework, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2011/3 on the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013.

25. Three organizations participated in the discussion of the progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013. The International Organization of la Francophonie noted that the partnership between their organization and UN-Women further contributes to the coordination mandate of UN-Women. A representative of the Women's Environment and Development Organization spoke on behalf of the Global Gender Equality Architecture Reform campaign, a network of non-governmental organizations, stating that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action should not be replaced or negotiated and should serve as a starting point for any future negotiations. Soroptimist International welcomed the establishment of a Global Civil Society Advisory Group and commended UN-Women on its engagement with civil society.

26. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director assured delegations that UN-Women, in future reports, would provide more detailed information, including on the work done universally to engage Member States through programming, advocacy and advisory roles. She noted that a private sector resource mobilization strategy was in place and underscored the need for increased contributions from Member States and non-traditional donors.

27. The Head of the Entity assured delegations that UN-Women would be heavily involved in the upcoming sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and the negotiations related to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. She also updated delegations on the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and highlighted the absence of agreed conclusions at that session as a disappointment, but not a failure. UN-Women had learned many lessons from the fifty-sixth session of the Commission and was working on preparations for the subsequent session.

28. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/2 on the progress report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the implementation of the strategic plan, 2011-2013.

V. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

29. The Director, Division of Management and Administration introduced the proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNW/2012/6), together with the corresponding report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNW/2012/7).

30. The Director noted that the proposed changes to the financial regulations and rules were in line with the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/283. The changes to the financial regulations and rules also reflected the application of the new cost classification and results-based budgeting approach, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2011/1. She noted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, as outlined in UNW/2012/7, that subject to comments expressed in that report, the Advisory Committee had no objections to the Executive Board's approval of the proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for UN-Women.

31. There were no interventions by delegations following the presentation. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/3 on the proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

VI. Report on the regional architecture

32. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme presented the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture (UNW/2012/5). He noted the proposed structure would set a precedent for overall organizational effectiveness and institution-building. He further added that the proposed architecture was the best configuration, allowing for maximum impact at the regional and country levels and a shift towards a more dynamic, decentralized and cohesive entity.

33. Following the presentation, several delegations voiced their support for the decentralized nature of the proposed regional architecture.

34. Speakers supported the efforts of UN-Women to strengthen its field capacity and noted the importance of having the right leaders and technical experts in the right locations for effective implementation.

35. A number of delegations noted the need for additional information, especially regarding the administrative, financial and budgetary implications, and the implementation plan of the proposed regional architecture.

36. Some delegations requested additional information on the functions of the proposed regional centres, multi-country offices and country offices. One delegation sought clarification on how decentralization would influence the implementation of the normative guidance provided by the Commission on the Status of Women.

37. Speakers underlined the need for the proposed regional architecture to be aligned with the United Nations country team structure.

38. One delegation noted the limited number of regional centres in the African region, stressing that the current capacity would be unable to meet the demand of this large continent and suggested that UN-Women could gain from building partnerships with such regional organizations as the Economic Community of West African States.

39. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director noted that UN-Women would work to provide the Executive Board with the requested information at its second regular session of 2012.

40. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/4 on the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture.

VII. Evaluation

41. The Chief of the Evaluation Office introduced the report on the UN-Women evaluation function, 2011 (UNW/2012/8) to the Executive Board. She outlined the methodology and purpose behind the evaluation for 2011 and gave a detailed explanation of the contents of the report. During the presentation it was noted that the Evaluation Office of UN-Women reports directly to the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director, to ensure its independence.

42. The Entity uses evaluation to support its mandate by fostering joint evaluations on gender equality; serving as a repository of evaluations in the United Nations system on gender equality and the empowerment of women; actively contributing to the accountability of the United Nations system on gender equality; and actively contributing to the work of the United Nations Evaluation Group. In this regard, the Chief of the Evaluation Office also highlighted the role of UN-Women in leading the United Nations system-wide evaluations on gender equality and the Entity's leadership as the Chair of the United Nations Evaluation Group.

43. National monitoring and evaluation capacities are supported by UN-Women, as a key area for evidence-based policymaking on gender equality. National evaluation capacity development is undertaken in partnership with United Nations organizations and evaluation associations.

44. Following the presentation, delegations mentioned the importance of evaluations in influencing the international normative framework on gender equality. One delegation expressed interest in ascertaining whether there have been any new efforts or discussions between UN-Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on enhancing initiatives towards changing attitudes and cultural norms.

45. Speakers expressed their interest in the evaluation policy to be prepared in consultation with the Executive Board prior to the second regular session of 2012. Delegations indicated interest in thematic evaluations to be presented to the Board in the future.

46. Delegations urged UN-Women to work towards closing the gap between planned and completed evaluations. They also noted the need to equip country offices with the capacity to monitor evaluations.

47. A number of delegations addressed issues related to the independence of the Evaluation Office. One delegation suggested the Evaluation Office should report directly to the Executive Board.

48. Several delegations expressed the need for UN-Women to increase its rate of management response and to integrate the lessons learned from evaluations.

49. The Chief of the Evaluation Office noted that the Office would work in close consultation with the Executive Board in the development of the evaluation policy of the Entity and would propose a work programme to meet with the Board in this regard.

50. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/5 on the report on the evaluation function, 2011.

VIII. Side events

51. Two side events were co-hosted by UN-Women during the annual session of 2012, one entitled “In transition: Afghan women and the work of UN-Women in Afghanistan”, held on 29 May 2012, and the other entitled “Rights of indigenous women: experiences and good practices for promoting participation and leadership”, held on 30 May.

A. In transition: Afghan women and the work of UN-Women in Afghanistan

52. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations and UN-Women, led by a panel of speakers that included the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, the General Director of the Afghan Women’s Network and the UN-Women Country Director for Afghanistan.

53. The panellists noted the significant improvement in the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan and the challenges they face. A number of measures necessary to enhance the work of the international community on gender equality in Afghanistan were noted. These included: increased recruitment of women in the police force and adequate protection of women in security forces; targeted technical capacity-building programmes for women; accountability of the Government regarding its obligations to promote women’s leadership and participation in decision-making; the inclusion of women’s organizations in the design, monitoring and evaluation of indicators that measure the impact of the transition on women; and treating the protection of Afghan women leaders as a priority.

54. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director stressed the importance for policymakers and the international community of listening to Afghan women; viewing the situation of women as an indicator of the stability and progress of the peace and transition process; and not allowing any of the gains achieved on gender equality to be given up in any peace process. In this regard, she stressed the importance of the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, to be held in July 2012. The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Japan to the United Nations

assured participants that women are expected to play an important role at the Tokyo Conference and that the rights of women will be one of the most important elements of the discussion.

B. Rights of indigenous women: experiences and good practices for promoting participation and leadership

55. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Norway to the United Nations, the International Indigenous Women's Forum, the Alliance of Indigenous Women of Central America and Mexico and UN-Women. Panellists included representatives from the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Norway to the United Nations, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women, and representatives from the International Indigenous Women's Forum, the Alliance of Indigenous Women of Central America and Mexico, and the National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru. The panel discussion focused on best practices and lessons learned in promoting the participation and rights of indigenous women.

56. During the side event the participants shared experiences in the following areas: strengthening of a gender perspective in public policies for indigenous people; development of leadership capacities of indigenous women (e.g. the alliance between indigenous women's networks, the National Autonomous University of Mexico and UN-Women); local capacity development, with particular attention to the needs of indigenous women in the area of sexual and reproductive health and the reduction of maternal mortality; and prevention of and attention to violence against indigenous women.

57. For its part, UN-Women reaffirmed the relevance of the leadership and participation of indigenous women as conditions for development and democracy. UN-Women is committed to creating more decision-making opportunities for indigenous women. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director encouraged women leaders of indigenous organizations to attend the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014. This conference will be an opportunity to exchange views and best practices on the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples, including compliance with the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

IX. Closing remarks

58. The Executive Board was informed that the second regular session of 2012 had been postponed to 28 to 30 November 2012. Delegations expressed concern about the change of dates and called on UN-Women to ensure that in future, all documentation to be considered by the Executive Board is prepared in a timely manner. This would enable the Executive Board to provide "timely, well-informed and carefully considered guidance and direction".

59. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director thanked the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Executive Board for their assistance in chairing the session. She noted that the continued support of the Executive Board would allow UN-Women to fulfil its universal mandate.

60. The Head of the Entity reiterated the need for the continued support of Member States during the upcoming intergovernmental meetings, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2012, the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in strengthening the international commitment to gender equality.

61. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director expressed her appreciation to delegations for their political and financial support and reminded them that the Entity, without the necessary levels of contributions, would not be able to achieve the full implementation of its mandate. She urged donors to provide stronger financial contributions.

62. In conclusion, the Head of the Entity emphasized that “as long as 800 women continue to die every day from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, as long as girls continue to be eliminated in the womb through sex selection, as long as women and girls are denied their rights and suffer discrimination and violence, we really cannot rest in our efforts”.

63. The President of the Executive Board thanked UN-Women for the informal briefings conducted prior to the annual session and noted the need for more consultations with the Executive Board. Increased communication with the Executive Board would allow for faster and more effective deliberations.

64. The President congratulated the Executive Board, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director and the staff of UN-Women for a successful conclusion to the annual session of 2012. He noted that the decisions taken during the session were significant, however, the most important task ahead was to ensure concrete results at the field level. UN-Women must deliver in the most effective manner possible and the proposed regional architecture is the first step.

Annex I

Decisions adopted at the annual session of 2012

2012/2

Progress report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the implementation of the strategic plan, 2011-2013

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* its decision 2011/3 endorsing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011-2013;^a

2. *Also recalls* that the mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) mandate calls on the Entity to have universal coverage and strategic presence and to ensure closer linkages between the norm-setting intergovernmental work and operations at the field level;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013;^b

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the strategic plan, 2011-2013;^c

5. *Commends* UN-Women for leading the development of the United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women, welcomes its adoption by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination as an accountability framework to be applied throughout the United Nations system, calls upon UN-Women to continue its effective coordination work and recommends that the Economic and Social Council consider steps to encourage the full application of the system-wide action plan;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 73 of General Assembly resolution 64/289, reiterates that the composition of and selection of staff for UN-Women should be in accordance with the provisions of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, with due regard to geographical representation and gender balance, and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to include in her future reports information on progress made in this regard;

7. *Recalls* further paragraph 6 of decision 2011/3^a and looks forward to the further development of results frameworks in line with that decision and its presentation to the Executive Board in preparation for the annual session of 2013;

8. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to implement the strategic plan, 2011-2013, in accordance with its mandate, in particular by making progress on all six goals of the strategic plan^c and responding to the needs of and national priorities determined by Member States, upon their request, reaffirming in this regard the principles of universality and national ownership in field activities;

9. *Encourages* UN-Women to continue its good work in implementing all planned activities and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to

^a As contained in document UNW/2011/13.

^b UNW/2012/4.

^c UNW/2011/9.

include, in her report to the annual session of 2013, an analysis of progress made in implementing the strategic plan, 2011-2013, including conclusions and recommendations for addressing challenges in all regions.

2012/3

Proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* regulations 1.1 and 1.4 of the proposed financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;^d

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions^e and of the management response from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);

3. *Notes with appreciation* the proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for UN-Women^f on the basis of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and harmonized cost classifications under the integrated budget;

4. *Approves* the proposed amendments to the financial regulations, endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee,^g takes note of the amended financial rules and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to report on the implementation of the amended financial regulations and rules in the context of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

2012/4

Report of the Under Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture

The Executive Board,

1. *Reaffirms* General Assembly resolution 64/289 and that, based on the principle of universality, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) shall provide, through its normative support functions and operational activities, guidance and technical support to all Member States, across all levels of development and in all regions, at their request, on gender equality, the empowerment and rights of women and gender mainstreaming;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the work of UN-Women should lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and that it will operate as part of the resident coordinator system, within

^d UNW/2011/5/Rev.1.

^e UNW/2012/7, the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed revision to the financial regulations and rules for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as contained in document UNW/2012/6.

^f UNW/2012/6.

^g See UNW/2012/7.

United Nations country teams, leading and coordinating the work of the country teams on gender equality and the empowerment of women, under the overall leadership of the resident coordinators;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 8 of its decision 2011/5,^h in which the Executive Board looked forward to considering a report of the Under Secretary-General/Executive Director on the conclusions of the regional architecture review, including potential reconfiguration of regional, subregional and country presence, and the budgetary implications of the report;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;ⁱ

5. *Welcomes* the general direction of the regional architecture, including the guiding principles for its development, as identified in paragraph 30 of the report;

6. *Acknowledges* the ongoing and evolving nature of the process on the review of the regional architecture and encourages UN-Women to continue to carry this process forward;

7. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit a report on the overall administrative, functional and budgetary implications of the regional architecture, which should include, inter alia, an implementation plan, with a view to taking a final decision at the second regular session of 2012 of the Executive Board.

2012/5 Report on the evaluation function, 2011

The Executive Board,

Recalling standard 1 of the Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the United Nations System established by the United Nations Evaluation Group and paragraph 72 of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013,^j

1. *Takes note* of the report on the UN-Women evaluation function, 2011^k and of the programme of work for 2012-2013 contained therein, as proposed by the Evaluation Office, which follows the relevant provisions of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013;^j

2. *Looks forward* to the development of the evaluation policy for UN-Women, consistent with General Assembly resolutions 62/208 and 64/289 and the Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the United Nations System of the United Nations Evaluation Group, requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to submit the policy for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2012, and in this regard, also requests UN-Women to update and consult with the Board about the development of the evaluation policy prior to its second regular session of 2012;

^h As contained in document UNW/2011/13.

ⁱ UNW/2012/5.

^j See UNW/2011/9.

^k UNW/2012/8.

3. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to develop the evaluation function and the use of evaluation, to be governed by the upcoming evaluation policy, which will establish the types, mandatory nature, roles and responsibilities for evaluations, including quality assurance, within the organization, with respect to its normative support and operational work and consistent with the mandate of the Entity, and to report in this regard at the annual session of 2013;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the independent Evaluation Office and looks forward to UN-Women efforts to further strengthen the independence, credibility and use of evaluations as part of its evaluation policy;

5. *Emphasizes* that programme countries should have greater ownership and leadership in the evaluation of all forms of assistance and encourages UN-Women to pursue and intensify its efforts to strengthen evaluation capacities in programme countries with respect to its mandate on gender equality and the empowerment of women by, inter alia, forging strong partnerships with relevant national institutions;

6. *Requests* UN-Women to consult Governments and other stakeholders when carrying out evaluation activities of programmes supported by the Entity;

7. *Also requests* UN-Women to address issues raised in past evaluations and to increase the rate of management response to evaluation reports as well as the rate of implementation of follow-up actions and to report thereon.

Annex II

Proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2012, 28-30 November 2012

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Organizational matters
3. Regional architecture
4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters
5. Evaluation and audit matters
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of decisions
8. Closing statements

Tentative workplan

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Wednesday, 28 November	10 a.m.- 1 p.m.	1	Opening of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by the President of the Executive Board • Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director
		2	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2012 • Adoption of the report of the annual session of 2012 (UNW/2012/9)
	3 p.m.- 5 p.m.	3	Regional architecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director on the regional architecture
			Regional architecture (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director on the regional architecture

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	5 p.m.- 6 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations</i>
Thursday, 29 November	10 a.m.- 1 p.m.	4	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change management budget • Financial statements of UN-Women for 2011
	3 p.m.- 5 p.m.	4	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost recovery policy for UN-Women • Operational reserve policy for UN-Women
	5 p.m.- 6 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations</i>
Friday, 30 November	10 a.m.- 1 p.m.	5	Evaluation and audit matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation policy • Report of the Office of Audit and Investigation of the United Nations Development Programme on UN-Women internal audit and investigation activities for the year 2011
	1.30 p.m.- 2.30 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations</i>
	3 p.m.- 6 p.m.	6	Other matters
		7	Adoption of decisions
		2	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the agenda and tentative workplan for the first regular session of 2013 • Approval of the draft annual workplan for 2013
		8	Closing statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by the President of the Executive Board • Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director