



Joint Statement delivered by Switzerland

Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

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Madam President

I deliver this statement on behalf of the following cross regional group of Member States: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, Turkey, Ukraine and my own country Switzerland.

First and foremost we commend the UNFPA Evaluation Office on its flexibility to adapt the evaluation function to the needs in the COVID-19 context. And we fully support the Evaluation Office's continued measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on evaluations and to enable them to function as an accelerator to recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

And we congratulate the Evaluation Office on its excellent performance in this highly challenging past year, achieving almost all the targets of the key performance indicators, as for example regarding evaluation coverage, the quality of evaluation reports, as well as the use of evaluation in programme development.

We thank the Evaluation Office for this comprehensive Quadrennial Budgeted Evaluation Plan 2022-2025, which is well aligned with the development and organizational effectiveness results set out in the UNFPA strategic plan 2022-2025. Its evaluations will be key to inform the implementation and midterm review of the strategic plan and to improve UNFPA's organizational and United Nations system-wide performance.

We appreciate UNFPA's commitment to further strengthen the evaluation function, in particular, with additional investments in the Evaluation Office and continued engagement addressing the remaining challenge of ensuring the timely delivery of high-quality decentralized evaluations. We call upon UNFPA to continue investing in the quality and methodological validity of decentralized evaluations, and to ensure that Country Teams are well equipped to manage and commission qualitative evaluations.

We highly value UNFPA's Evaluation Office's commitment and active support to the UNDS reform agenda and system-wide and joint evaluations on the central, regional and country level. We commend the Evaluation Office on the emphasis put on harmonizing and aligning its evaluations with the evaluation efforts of United Nations system partners as well as on engaging in United Nations system-wide evaluation efforts including with the United Nations system-wide evaluation unit.

Against this background we welcome the general positive trend regarding UNFPA's evaluation expenditure ratio over the last few years, which is getting closer to the 1.4 to 3% of total program expenditure as a defined target in the UNFPA evaluation policy. In the Quadrennial Budgeted Evaluation Plan 2022-2025 the presented cost for the implementation of the Quadrennial Budgeted Evaluation Plan 2022-2025 amounts to a total of 22.9 million USD. However, we understand that the figures presented do not represent the totality of the estimated costs of the evaluation function. In that regard we would be keen to learn more about the projected evaluation expenditure ratio for the years 2022-2025.

Let me close by re-iterating our commitment to the critical work of the evaluation office in promoting institutional learning and accountability thereby contributing to increased programme effectiveness.