



28 May 2026

Excellencies,

We would like to express our sincere appreciation of the continued engagement for the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UN-Women on all oversight and strategic matters, and, in particular, on the ongoing UN80 initiative, a process to which we are both fully committed to and supportive.

Further to decisions 2026/2 and 2026/6 on “Engagement with the UN80 initiative” taken at the First Regular Session 2026 of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UN-Women respectively, and, in particular, the request to share additional information on “alternative options for enhanced alignment, impact and efficiency”, we would like to provide a brief update on ongoing work in this regard.

UNFPA and UN-Women remain fully committed to supporting a transparent, evidence-based and Member State-led process under the broader UN80 reform agenda. In this context, both entities are working together to further elaborate and refine a set of complementary alternative options intended to strengthen coherence, operational alignment, accountability and delivery impact within existing institutional frameworks.

This work is intended to complement the work under way to “conduct a thorough assessment of the benefits of a merger of UNFPA and UN-Women and their respective mandates to create a unified voice and platform on gender equality and women’s rights” as called for by the Secretary-General in his September 2025 report, *Shifting Paradigms: United to Deliver*. This includes the recently released *Strategic Merger Assessment of UNFPA and UN-Women*, as well as broader UN80 reform efforts. It seeks to contribute additional analytical perspectives, consistent with the Executive Board’s request for a broader evidence base to support informed deliberations.

The work currently under development is organized around several broad thematic areas, including:

- Integrated country-level delivery and impact;
- Enhanced data, analytics and foresight collaboration;
- Strengthened operational and service delivery interoperability; and
- Strategic, policy and governance coordination mechanisms.

Across these areas, the analysis is examining possible approaches to strengthen institutional alignment, interoperability and collective impact while preserving existing mandates, and legal frameworks.

The work remains ongoing and will continue to be refined following the release of the Secretary-General’s progress report on the UN80 initiative, as well as continued engagement with Member States and stakeholders. We currently anticipate sharing a more detailed articulation of specific alternative options and related analysis with the Executive Boards within the next four weeks.

We would like to reiterate our continued commitment to maintaining open, transparent and regular engagement with the Executive Boards throughout this process and remain fully available for further discussions and briefings, as appropriate.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

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To: Members of the Bureaus
of the Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UN-Women