

## ***Joint Statement***

### **Executive Board of UNFPA**

#### **Annual report on the UNFPA evaluation function 2022, Agenda Item 13**

#### **ANNUAL SESSION 2023**

**8 June 2023, New York**

Mister President

I make this statement on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye and my own country, Switzerland.

We thank the UNFPA Evaluation Office for its annual report, the programme of work and budget of the Evaluation Office in 2023, and the corresponding management response.

We welcome UNFPA management's continued commitment to a strong evaluation function. And we would like to echo the management's compliment to the Evaluation Office for its agility and adaptiveness, enabling a steady progress despite a rapidly shifting and challenging context. With its excellent performance in 2022, the Evaluation Office achieved almost all the targets of the key performance indicators, as for example regarding evaluation coverage, the quality of evaluation reports, the management response submission and implementation, as well as the use of evaluation in programme development.

We welcome UNFPA's Evaluation Office's continued commitment and active support to the reform agenda and system-wide and joint evaluations on the central, regional and country level. Important from our point of view is also the support to UNEG as a standard setter for evaluation in the UN system.

We also appreciate the strong push for involving youth in various parts of the evaluations including as evaluators.

We commend you for two major centralized evaluations and the respective management responses, more concretely, the “Evaluation of the UNFPA support to population dynamics and data” and the “Evaluation of the UNFPA support to adolescents and youth”. We are looking forward to the discussion of the findings and recommendations of these evaluations.

While we positively note that the decentralized evaluation system has been further strengthened through guidance and training, which is also reflected in the KPI rating, we share your analysis, that further improvements are needed. We appreciate the Evaluation Office’s continued engagement in order to address this challenge. *Q: In that regard we would be eager to hear UNFPA’s assessment of the current division of labor between Country Offices, Regional Offices and HQ for evaluation management and quality assurance of evaluations? And how is your view regarding the staffing of Regional and Country Offices with expert monitoring and evaluation officers in comparison with Country Offices with an M&E focal point?*

We appreciate the UNFPA management’s continued commitment to provide the financial and human resources needed to support the evaluation function and welcome the increase of UNFPA’s evaluation expenditure in absolute terms. However, the overall evaluation budget remains below the guidelines. Hence, the funding target needs to be adapted to better reflect the significant increase in programme expenditure as well as the requirements for an evaluation function of a now medium sized multilateral organisation with an expanded humanitarian response portfolio.

The renewal of the UNFPA evaluation policy comes at the right time to reflect on necessary adjustments to the evaluation function and its funding requirements. In that sense we commend the UNFPA evaluation office for initiating the UNEG / OECD DAC EvalNet “Independent Peer Review of the UNFPA Evaluation Function”. *Q: We would be keen to receive a short feedback regarding insights resulting from the peer review and information on the process for the renewal of the evaluation policy?*



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*Check against delivery*

Let me close by re-iterating our strong commitment to the precious work of the UNFPA evaluation office, which performs a key oversight function and contributes to institutional learning and increased effectiveness of UNFPA and of the UN Development System.

Thank you for your attention.