

Board of Trustees

Sixtieth Session

28–29 November 2019

UNITAR/BT/60/6

16 December 2019

Geneva, Switzerland

KEY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Item 5: Sustained Growth of UNITAR: New Partnership Models and Business Innovations

Item 5a: The Defeat NCD Partnership

The Board took note of and endorsed the Agreement between UNITAR and The Defeat-NCD Partnership to host the Secretariat of the Partnership and the progress so far. The Board recognized the importance of the new Partnership modality created under the Agreement and took note of the explanation given by the Executive-Director that all activities of the Partnership as well as the integration of its workforce and any decision on its budget will be taken in full conformity with the UNITAR Statute. The Board then approved the Partnership as presented under the UNITAR programme budget for the biennium 2020-2021.

Item 5b: Global Road Safety Partnership

Under this item, and in light of the discussion under item 5a, the Board took note of the opportunities UNITAR has for programmatic expansion in line with its Statute. The Board requested UNITAR to prepare a paper on the criteria and risk assessment for future partnerships. The Board approved the in-principle transition to UNITAR from the International Federation of the Red Cross for hosting the Global Road Safety Partnership in 2020 subject to the final approval by the Board.

Item 5c: The Sustainable Cycles Programme and Bonn Office

The Board welcomed steps that Management has taken to integrate the Sustainable Cycles Programme into UNITAR and open an office in Bonn, Germany. Concerning certain matters of the status of UNU SCYCLE personnel in Bonn that will be transferred to UNITAR the Board believed that a change in the UNITAR Statute is not appropriate and encouraged the Executive Director to work with German authorities to find a mutually acceptable solution.

Item 5d: Exploring and Assessing New Income Streams and Future Growth

The Board took note of plans to develop new income streams and future growth, particularly in the area of e-Learning and requested Management to report to the Board at its Sixty-First Session.

Item 6: Follow up from the Fifty-Ninth Session

Item 6a: Fit for purpose: UNITAR programming and frontier issues

The Board encouraged UNITAR to continue its work on priority actions contained in the report on “The Age of Digital Interdependence.”

Item 6b: Implementation of the Enterprise Risk Management and Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policies

The Board took note of the implementation of the Enterprise Risk Management and Revised Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Practices.

Item 6c: Horizontal Learning Services

The Board took note of and thanked Management for the revised concept paper on horizontal learning services. The Board requested the Executive Director to work on a short-term contract option to address the objectives of the subject matter and requested the Executive Director to report to the Board at its Sixty-First Session.

Item 7: Report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council and 2019 ECOSOC Resolution

The Board took note of the Report of the Secretary-General (E/2019/81) and resolution E/Res/2019/13 and welcomed progress on the implementation of the 2018-2021 strategic framework. Concerning future ECOSOC resolutions on the work of UNITAR the Board encouraged the UNITAR Office in New York to consult early with the delegations of Member States represented on the Board and in the Geneva Group of Friends to ensure that future resolutions continue to enjoy large co-sponsorship.

Item 8: Implementation of the 2018-2021 strategic framework

The Board took note of the report on the implementation of the strategic framework and welcomed the progress made. The Board encouraged Management to establish a reference group for the mid-term evaluation of the framework and report at its Sixty-First Session. The Board encouraged consistent and further efforts by UNITAR to strengthen capacity-building in developing countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Item 9: Programming and reporting**Item 9a: 2018 Results Report and key performance indicators**

The Board took note with appreciation of the 2019 Results Report and the update on the key performance indicators.

Item 9b: UN CC:Learn and UN SDG:Learn

The Board took note with appreciation the presentations and comments made on UN CC:Learn and UN SDG:Learn.

Item 10: Partnerships**Item 10a: Partnership Development and Resource Mobilization Strategy**

The Board requested Management to establish informal arrangements with expertise within and outside UNITAR on strategic partnership engagement, with the outcome to be presented to the Board through the Finance Committee at the Sixty-First Session.

Item 10b: Grants-in and Grants-out Policy Guidelines

The Board approved revised Policy Guidelines for Agreements with Financial Implications (acceptance of contributions for specific purposes), with the requirement that a letter be sent to donors to formalize project closure, and the revised Policy Guidelines for the Disbursement of Funds to Implementing Partners.

Item 11: Finance and budget**Item 11a: Financial statements for the year-ended 31 December 2018 and Report of the Board of Auditors**

The Board took note of the Report of the Finance Committee and the financial statements for the year-ended 31 December 2018 and the Report of the Board of Auditors. The Board expressed appreciation to Management for the implementation of the recommendations of the external audit.

Item 11b: Internal audit

The Board took note of the report on the audit of human resources management and expressed its appreciation to Management on the implementation of the audit recommendations.

Item 11c: Report on the application of the cost recovery approach and the situation of the General Fund

The Board took note of Management's report on the application of the cost recovery approach and the update on the General Fund. The Board requested Management to develop a new cost recovery approach for consideration and approval by the Board including through circulation if necessary.

Item 11d: Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

The Board took note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Item 11e: Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2020-2021

The Board adopted the programme budget for the biennium 2020-2020 as proposed and expressed appreciation for the significant growth. The Board took note of the risk assessment on The Defeat-NCD Partnership and requested Management to provide an update on risks at the Sixty-First Session.

Item 11f: Update on the use of the revolving fund from the General Fund

The Board took note of the update on the use of the revolving fund from the General Fund.

Item 11g: Strategic Framework Fund

The Board took note of the update on the Strategic Framework Fund. The Board expressed its sincere gratitude to the State of Qatar, the Swedish International Development Agency and the World Family Organization for support to the Fund. The Board requested Management to update the Board at its Sixty-First Session.

Item 11h: UNITAR Investment Management and Returns Strategy

The Board took note of Management's update on the implementation of the UNITAR Investment Management and Returns Strategy.

Item 1i: Supplementary funding plan for the unfunded UNITAR ASHI liabilities

The Board took note of Management's update on the supplementary funding plan for the unfunded UNITAR ASHI liabilities. The Board requested Management to provide an update at its Sixty-First Session.

Item 11j: Creation of a programme-level salary pool for meeting knowledge content development costs to cover pre- and post-project implementation validity periods

The Board expressed its appreciation to Management in dealing with the creation of a programme level salary pool for meeting knowledge content development costs to cover pre- and post-project implementation/validity periods. The Board welcomed the pilot project developed in order to achieve transparency on knowledge content development costs to cover pre- and post-project implementation/validity periods. The Board requested Management to report to the Board on the pilot project at its Sixty-First Session.

Item 12: Elections of the Chair and Vice Chair

The Board paid tribute to the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair and elected by acclamation Ambassador Luis Gallegos and Ms. Diana Chavez as the next Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, respectively. The Board also elected Dr. Patti Phillips to serve on the Finance Committee.

Item 13: Dates for the Sixty-First Session of the Board and adoption of the Sixtieth Session's conclusions and recommendations

The Board agreed to convene from 5-6 November 2020 for its Sixty-First Session. The Board welcomed the invitation extended by Dr. Deisi Kusztra and the Government of the State of Parana to host the session in Curitiba, Brazil. The Board agreed to adopt the report on the conclusions and recommendations of its Sixtieth Session as a follow-up to the session.