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Report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-eighth session
(23–25 November 2020)

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Introduction

1. The report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-eighth session is presented to the General Conference in accordance with Article 9.4 (c) of the Constitution. As per decision of the Board IDB.46/Dec.3 (e), the Secretariat continues replacing written summary records of the Industrial Development Board and the General Conference with digital records.

2. The following decisions of the Board, reproduced in annex I, are related to the work of the General Conference at its nineteenth session:

   - IDB.48/Dec.8  UNIDO’s strategy for post-conflict/crisis situations
   - IDB.48/Dec.11  UNIDO Staff Pension Committee

I. Organizational and procedural matters

3. The forty-eighth session of the Board was held at UNIDO Headquarters, Vienna International Centre, from 23 to 25 November 2020 (six plenary meetings). Delegates took part virtually using the Interprefy conferencing platform.

Participation

4. All 52 members of the Board were represented at the session: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.

5. The following 57 Member States of UNIDO also participated in the session: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

6. The Holy See and the Sovereign Order of Malta participated as observers.

7. The following United Nations bodies were represented: the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

8. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

9. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented: the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials (AUCBM),

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1 One of the seats allocated to List C is currently vacant on the Board.
the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union (EU), the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).

10. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: the China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC), the International Alliance of Women (IAW), the International Council of Women (ICW), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ISEKI Food Association, the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC), the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW), Soroptimist International (SI), and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO).

Opening of the session

11. The forty-eighth session of the Board was declared open by the Acting President of the forty-seventh session, H.E. Ms. M. C. Natividad (Philippines).

Officers of the session

12. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure, the Board elected by acclamation H.E. Mr. D. Djumala (Indonesia) as President, H.E. Ms. B. Žvokelj (Slovenia), Mr. H. Zaki (Egypt) and Ms. D. Hernandez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) as Vice-Presidents, and Mr. M. Evci (Turkey) as Rapporteur.

Agenda of the session

13. The Board adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Annual report of the Director General for 2019:
   (a) Managing for results: Update on the implementation of the medium-term programme framework, 2018–2021.
4. Report of the Programme and Budget Committee:
   (a) Report of the External Auditor for 2019;
   (b) Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations;
   (c) Report by the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues;
   (d) Mobilization of financial resources;
   (e) Updated medium-term investment proposals.
5. General risk management.
7. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa.
10. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries.

11. UNIDO’s strategy for post-conflict/crisis situations.

12. UNIDO activities in the environment and energy.

13. Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit.

14. Addressing recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit review of management and administration in UNIDO.

15. UNIDO Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

16. Evaluation and internal oversight activities.

17. Personnel matters.

18. Preparations for the selection process for the post of the Director General.

19. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.

20. Provisional agenda and date of the forty-ninth session.

21. Adoption of the report.

14. The Board adopted a proposal by the President to ensure the maximum utilization of available conference-servicing resources (see annex I, decision IDB.48/Dec.1).

15. The Board decided to set up informal in-session consultations with the aim of facilitating the drafting of decisions and entrusted Vice-President Mr. H. Zaki (Egypt) to chair those consultations.

II. Annual Report of the Director General for 2019 (item 3)

16. Under item 3, the Board had before it the Annual Report of UNIDO 2019 (IDB.48/2) and its appendices, and a report by the Director General on managing for results containing updates on the implementation of the medium-term programme framework, 2018-2021 (IDB.48/5, PBC.36/CRP.7 and IDB.48/CRP.2).

17. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.

III. Report of the Programme and Budget Committee (item 4 (a) to (e))

18. Under item 4, including sub-items (a) to (e), the Board had before it the report of the Programme and Budget Committee on the work of its thirty-sixth session (IDB.48/12).

A. Report of the External Auditor for 2019

19. Under sub-item 4(a), the Board had before it the report of the External Auditor on the accounts of UNIDO for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2019 (IDB.48/3), the unaudited annexes for the year ended 31 December 2019, contained in conference room paper PBC.36/CRP.2, and a note by the Audit Advisory Committee providing comments on the report of the External Auditor (PBC.36/CRP.3).

20. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.
B. **Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations**

21. Under sub-item 4(b), the Board had before it a report by the Director General on the financial situation of UNIDO (IDB.48/4), a note by the Secretariat on the status of assessed contributions (PBC.36/CRP.4), and an update by the Secretariat on the financial situation (IDB.48/CRP.3).

22. The Board considered a draft decision on the financial situation of UNIDO submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.2) and adopted decision IDB.48/Dec.2 (see annex I).

C. **Report by the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues**

23. Under sub-item 4(c), the Board had before it a report by the Co-chairs of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues (IDB.48/6) and their update on the working group’s deliberations (IDB.48/CRP.4).

24. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.  

D. **Mobilization of financial resources**

25. Under sub-item 4(d), the Board considered a report by the Director General on the mobilization of financial resources (IDB.48/7), information on the mobilization of financial resources contained in chapter 8 of the Annual Report of UNIDO 2019 (IDB.48/2), and a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on projects approved under the Industrial Development Fund, thematic and individual trust funds, and other voluntary contributions in 2019 (PBC.36/CRP.6).

26. The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.3) and adopted decision IDB.48/Dec.3 (see annex I).

E. **Updated medium-term investment proposals**

27. Under sub-item 4(e), the Board had before it a report by the Director General on the medium-term investment proposals 2020–2023 (IDB.48/8).

28. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.

IV. **General risk management (item 5)**

29. Under item 5, the Board had before it a report by the Director General on general risk management (IDB.48/13).

30. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.

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2 The delegations of Colombia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the European Union and its member States clarified their positions on this matter. Statements are available on the UNIDO website and the Extranet.
V. UNIDO’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic (item 6)

31. Under item 6, the Board had before it a report by the Director General on UNIDO’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic (IDB.48/11), and a note by the Director General updating the report (IDB.48/CRP.5).

32. The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.13) and adopted decision IDB.48/Dec.4 (see annex I).

VI. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (item 7)

33. Under item 7, the Board had before it a report by the Director General on UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (IDB.48/14).

34. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.

VII. United Nations Development System reform (item 8)

35. Under item 8, the Board had before it reports by the Director General on the United Nations Development System reform (IDB.48/10 and IDB.48/CRP.6).

36. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.

VIII. Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (item 9)

37. Under item 9, the Board had before it a report by the Director General on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) (IDB.48/9), and an update on the African Union Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification (IDB.48/CRP.7).

38. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.

IX. UNIDO Independent Audit Advisory Committee (item 15)

39. Under item 15, the Board had before it a report of the Audit Advisory Committee, submitted by its Chairperson (IDB.48/20), and the response by the management of UNIDO (IDB.48/20/Add.1). The Board had also a proposal by the Chairperson of the Audit Advisory Committee on the terms of reference of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (IDB.48/21). Furthermore, the Board had two notes by the Secretariat on the membership of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (IDB.48/22 and IDB.48/CRP.9).

40. The Board considered two draft decisions submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.15 and IDB.48/L.4) and adopted decisions IDB.48/Dec.5 and IDB.48/Dec.6 (see annex I).

X. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries (item 10)

41. Under item 10, the Board had before it a report by the Director General on the Workplan of the Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries (IDB.48/15).
The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.14) and adopted decision IDB.48/Dec.7 (see annex I).

XI. UNIDO’s strategy for post-conflict/-crisis situations (item 11)

43. Under item 11, the Board had before it a report by the Director General on UNIDO’s strategy for post-conflict/-crisis situations (IDB.48/16), and a conference room paper containing the strategy (IDB.48/CRP.13).

44. The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.9) and adopted decision IDB.48/Dec.8 (see annex I).

XII. UNIDO activities in the environment and energy (item 12)

45. Under item 12, the Board had before it a report by the Director General on UNIDO activities in the environment and energy (IDB.48/17).

46. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.

XIII. Evaluation and internal oversight activities (item 16)

47. Under item 16, the Board had before it reports by the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight on internal oversight activities (IDB.48/23), and on evaluation activities (IDB.48/24). The Board also considered the revised Charter of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight (IDB.48/25).

48. The Board considered two draft decisions submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.5 and IDB.48/L.6) and adopted decisions IDB.48/Dec.9 and IDB.48/Dec.10 (see annex I).

XIV. Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (item 13) and addressing recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit review of management and administration in UNIDO (item 14)

49. Under items 13 and 14, the Board had before it two reports by the Director General, one on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (IDB.48/18), together with a note containing the UNIDO comments on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (IDB.48/CRP.8), and one report specifically on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit review of management and administration in UNIDO (IDB.48/19).

50. At the proposal of the President, the Board took note of the documentation provided.

XV. Personnel matters (item 17)

51. Under item 17, the Board had before it a report by the Director General on personnel matters (IDB.48/26), annexes to the report by the Director General (IDB.48/CRP.10) and a note by the Secretariat, providing the list of UNIDO staff as of 3 November 2020 (IDB.48/CRP.11).

52. The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.10) and adopted decision IDB.48/Dec.11 (see annex I).
XVI. **Preparations for the selection process for the post of the Director General (item 18)**

53. Under item 18, the Board had before it a note by the Secretariat on the selection process for the post of Director General (IDB.48/27).

54. The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.11) and adopted decision IDB.48/Dec.12 (see annex I).

XVII. **Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations (item 19)**

55. Under item 19, the Board had before it an application for consultative status from one non-governmental organization (IDB.48/28) and a note from the Director General with information on an intergovernmental organization (IDB.48/29).

56. The Board considered two draft decisions submitted by the President with regard to the relationship agreement with one intergovernmental organization (IDB.48/L.7), and to the application for consultative status from one non-governmental organization (IDB.48/L.12), and adopted decisions IDB.48/Dec.13 and IDB.48/Dec.14 (see annex I).

XVIII. **Provisional agenda and date of the forty-ninth session (item 20)**

57. Under item 20, the Board had before it a note by the Director General on the provisional agenda and date of the forty-ninth session (IDB.48/CRP.12).

58. The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.48/L.8) and adopted decision IDB.48/Dec.15 (see annex I).

XIX. **Adoption of the report (item 21) and closure of the forty-eighth session**

59. On 25 November, the Board considered the draft report on the work of its forty-eighth session (IDB.48/L.1) and adopted it as a whole with the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the task of finalizing the report.

60. The Board closed its forty-eighth session at 10.19 a.m. on 25 November 2020.
Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Board at its forty-eighth session

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Decision IDB.48/Dec.1  Utilization of available conference-servicing resources

The Industrial Development Board, with the aim of utilizing the available conference-servicing resources to the maximum extent possible, decided to suspend with immediate effect rule 32 of its rules of procedure relating to the quorum, for the meetings of its forty-eighth session only, provided no substantive decisions were taken at those meetings.

1st plenary meeting
23 November 2020

Decision IDB.48/Dec.2  Financial situation of UNIDO

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the information contained in document IDB.48/4;

(b) Urged those Member States and former Member States that have not yet paid their assessed contributions, including advances to the Working Capital Fund and prior years’ arrears, to do so without delay;

(c) Requested the Director General to pursue his efforts and contacts with Member States and former Member States to effect the collection of arrears and to report on the results of his efforts.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020
Decision IDB.48/Dec.3  Mobilization of financial resources

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the information contained in document IDB.48/7;

(b) Decided to delegate to the Director General the authority to approve projects for financing, previously selected by UNIDO and the donor, under the Industrial Development Fund in 2020 and 2021 in accordance with the priorities defined in the medium-term programme framework 2018–2021 (IDB.45/8 and GC.17/6);

(c) Encouraged Member States and other donors to increase their voluntary contributions to UNIDO including for the recently created Partnership Trust Fund as well as the Special Account of Voluntary Contributions for Core Activities (SAVCCA) and the Major Capital Investment Fund (MCIF);

(d) Also encouraged all donors to consider contributing programmable funds, specifically to enable UNIDO to respond rapidly to requests for assistance and develop and implement its programmatic activities in a prompt and coordinated manner;

(e) Requested Member States to consider contributing to UNIDO to enable the Organization to work with funding sources requiring co-funding, either through contributing to the dedicated trust funds or by special purpose funding at country or global level;

(f) Encouraged governments of recipient countries to play an active role in sharing with UNIDO the responsibility for mobilizing funds for jointly agreed priority activities, and specifically to take the lead in identifying and accessing funds available at the country level, including local cost sharing opportunities, and funds from bilateral donors, multi-donor trust funds, the World Bank, as well as other development finance institutions;

(g) Strongly recommended that Member States cooperate with and support the Organization in its efforts to develop and promote its programmes and initiatives in the international development context, and especially through international conferences and other forms of dialogue, in order to ensure that these initiatives are well known, their relevance for international development targets are recognized, and resources are made available.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

Decision IDB.48/Dec.4  UNIDO’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the ongoing public health emergency of international concern and associated socioeconomic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) Recalled United Nations General Assembly resolutions 74/270 on “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, 74/274 on “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, and 74/306 on “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”; as well as World Health Assembly resolution WHA73.1 on “COVID-19 response”;

(c) Recalled also the United Nations framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19;

(d) Acknowledged the key leadership role of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating the comprehensive global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the central efforts of Member States therein;
(e) Welcomed the comprehensive approach by UNIDO for socioeconomic recovery outlined in the COVID-19 response framework titled “Responding to the crisis: building a better future”;

(f) Requested the Director General to engage with Member States, the private sector, and other stakeholders to support the affected countries towards an inclusive and environmentally sustainable recovery from the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, particularly in the retention and recovery of employment in industries, manufacturing and its associated productive sectors, and the restoration of livelihoods in respective supply chains, in line with the UNIDO COVID-19 response framework and UNIDO’s mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

(g) Also requested the Director General to mobilize additional, voluntary extrabudgetary resources to this end;

(h) Called on UNIDO to further coordinate its response to COVID-19 with the United Nations system;

(i) Further requested the Director General to provide regular updates to Member States on the implementation of the COVID-19 response framework of UNIDO.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

Decision IDB.48/Dec.5 Terms of reference of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the proposal by the Chairperson of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the terms of reference of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (document IDB.48/21);

(b) Decided to change the name of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee to Independent Oversight Advisory Committee;

(c) Approved the attached revised terms of reference of the committee, as contained in the annex to document IDB.48/21.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

3 In the course of the deliberations on this decision, the Board amended the draft terms of reference annexed to document IDB.48/21. The attached revised terms of reference reflect these changes.
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

A. Purpose and mandate

1. The Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (the “Oversight Committee”) is an advisory committee established pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure of the Industrial Development Board (the “Board”) to advise the Board and the Director General on issues within the Oversight Committee’s mandate.

2. The Oversight Committee’s mandate shall be to review and advise on:

   (a) Financial regulations and rules, accounting policies, as well as financial reports;

   (b) Governance, internal controls, compliance and risk management;

   (c) Internal audit function;

   (d) Evaluation function;

   (e) Investigation function, limited to investigation policy, standards, and operational arrangements, without accessing any information on individual cases;

   (f) External audit, including:

       (i) Provisions to ensure an independent and effective external audit;

       (ii) Audit reports and management letters;

       (iii) Actions to address external audit reports;

       (iv) Other matters raised by the External Auditor;

   (g) Actions taken by management and legislative bodies to address JIU recommendations.

B. Reporting

3. The Oversight Committee shall report to the Board through an annual report containing its advice, as well as the results of an annual self-assessment of the effectiveness and compliance with these terms of reference. The report will be submitted to the Secretariat well in advance of the legislative deadline for the issuance of documentation for the Board session of that year. The report will be presented to the Board, including any Management response. The Chairperson of the Oversight Committee, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairperson, will be invited to attend the session of the Board considering the report.

C. Composition, qualifications and selection of members

4. The Oversight Committee shall be comprised of at least three and no more than five members appointed by the Board. They shall serve in an independent, non-executive and personal capacity, and their responsibilities cannot be delegated.

5. To qualify as members, they shall possess relevant professional qualifications and senior level experience at international, United Nations and/or public or private sector organizations in the areas covered by these terms of reference, including finance, accounting, auditing, evaluation, investigation, or risk management. They shall be free of any relationship that would interfere (or give the appearance of interfering) with the exercise of independent judgment. They shall be external to and independent of the Organization and reflect the highest level of integrity and professionalism. In performing their duties, they shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or other authority external to or within UNIDO.
6. Former UNIDO staff, employees and consultants are disqualified from serving on the Oversight Committee unless their employment or contractual relationship with UNIDO terminated at least five years prior to their nomination to the Oversight Committee. A five-year period shall apply to any person employed or contracted by a former or current supplier of goods or services to UNIDO. Government officials serving in Vienna-based delegations shall not be eligible to serve on the Oversight Committee.

7. The Director General will provide an open call for nominations to the Oversight Committee to Member States. Following consultations with Member States, the Enlarged Bureau of the Board shall submit to the Board a non-exhaustive list of possible candidates for membership in the Oversight Committee. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board. No two members shall be nationals of the same State. In the selection process, due regard shall be given to the principle of equitable geographical representation and gender balance.

D. Term of office

8. Members shall serve for renewable terms of three years each with a maximum of six years. Rotation of membership shall be staggered to allow for continuity as outlined in Board decision IDB.45/Dec.13, and details should be included in the Oversight Committee’s internal procedures (refer para. 25). The term of office will commence on the date of the Board’s appointment, and it will expire upon conclusion of the three-year term or upon the appointment (or reappointment) of a member at the regular Board session of the relevant year, whichever is later.

9. A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Oversight Committee shall be selected by its members to serve in this capacity for at least two years on a rotational basis, once renewable.

10. In the event of resignation, incapacity, death or any other circumstance whereby the term of office of an Oversight Committee member is cut short, the Enlarged Bureau of the Board shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of his or her term of office.

11. Members shall sign a statement of confidentiality and disclosure of interest. If any matter before the Oversight Committee presents an actual or perceived conflict of interest for a member, it shall be timely disclosed to the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee will then determine whether the actual or perceived conflict of interest is such that the member should be excused from the discussion and abstain from the matter. All such declared conflicts of interest will be recorded in a register maintained by the Secretariat of the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee may establish more detailed conflict-of-interest policies in consultation with the Director General and representatives of Member States.

12. Members will not be held personally liable for decisions taken by the Oversight Committee acting as a whole.

13. Members shall not be eligible for any employment or contractual relationship with UNIDO during their term of office and for at least five years immediately following the last day of their term of office.

E. Expenses

14. Members serve on a voluntary basis and will not be remunerated. UNIDO will reimburse subsistence costs and other direct expenses associated with attending meetings of the Oversight Committee in compliance with applicable UNIDO rules and regulations.
F. Budget

15. The biennial programme and budgets shall include a specific allocation for the Oversight Committee to budget for the costs associated with the activities foreseen in these terms of reference, namely, the regular meetings (whether in Vienna or by videoconference), attendance by the Chairperson to the Board, and other meetings, as required.

G. Meetings and administrative arrangements

16. The Director of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight will designate a Secretariat to the Oversight Committee from among their staff.

17. The Oversight Committee will meet at least two times a year in regular face-to-face sessions. All meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson and be held either at UNIDO Headquarters or by videoconference. The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, any Oversight Committee member, the External Auditor, the Director General, and the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight may propose additional meetings, which may be conducted by videoconference.

18. Provisional agendas are prepared by the Chairperson in consultation with members of the Oversight Committee and the Secretariat. The approved provisional agenda will be circulated together with invitations to the members at least 21 days prior to the date of the meeting. Supporting documents and briefing materials will be circulated at least seven days prior to the meeting.

19. The Oversight Committee may invite the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight, management, auditors, evaluation officers, investigator or other UNIDO staff to attend its meetings to serve as resource persons and/or to assist in its deliberations.

20. The deliberations and minutes of Oversight Committee meetings will be kept confidential unless otherwise decided by the Oversight Committee. Documents and information material circulated for the consideration of the Oversight Committee shall be used solely for that purpose and treated as confidential.

21. The Oversight Committee shall provide its corresponding advisory briefings and/or written reports to the Director General, and, if so decided, to representatives of Member States, as soon as possible after each meeting.

22. The Oversight Committee is expected to maintain free and open communication with the External Auditor, the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight, and management. It is empowered to:

(a) Obtain all relevant records and documents necessary to perform its responsibilities, including the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight and external audit reports;

(b) Meet in executive session with the Director General and other appropriate managers to discuss any issues that the Oversight Committee believes should be discussed privately;

(c) When required, meet separately with the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight to discuss any matters that the Oversight Committee or the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight believes should be discussed privately;

(d) When required, meet separately with the representatives of the External Auditor to discuss any matters that the Oversight Committee or the External Auditor believes should be discussed privately;

(e) When required, meet separately with Members of the Board or its Enlarged Bureau to discuss any matters that the Oversight Committee or those representatives believe should be discussed privately.
23. The Oversight Committee will establish a rolling multi-year plan or road map as a basis for a biennial work programme to ensure that its responsibilities and stated objectives for the period are effectively addressed.

24. The documentation of the Oversight Committee shall follow UNIDO’s document retention policy.

H. Rules of procedure

25. Except as otherwise provided in these terms of reference, the Oversight Committee may adopt its own rules of procedure, which shall be communicated to the Board. If considered appropriate, the Committee may, in addition, be guided by the Rules of Procedure of the Board concerning conduct of business and decision-making.

26. Three Oversight Committee members, including the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, shall constitute a quorum. The Oversight Committee shall work on a consensus basis and by simple majority in the absence of consensus.

I. Amendment

27. The Oversight Committee shall periodically review the present terms of reference to revalidate their content or recommend necessary amendments, as appropriate. Any proposed amendment to these terms of reference shall be submitted to the Board for approval before becoming effective.

Decision IDB.48/Dec.6 Membership of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of document IDB.48/22 on membership of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee;

(b) Approved the extension of the mandate of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee from 29 June 2020 until the forty-eighth session of the Board;

(c) In line with paragraph 8 of the revised terms of reference of the committee, appointed the following members to the committee:

(i) For a term of three years, from 26 November 2020 to 25 November 2023, or until the appointment (or reappointment) of members at the fifty-first regular session of the Board, whichever is later:

Mr. Elmar Vinh-Thomas (South Africa) Africa Group
Mr. S. Lakshman Athukorala (Sri Lanka) Asia-Pacific Group
Mr. Michael N. Parker (Jamaica) GRULAC
Mr. Gabor Amon (Hungary) States in List D

(ii) For a term of two years, from 26 November 2020 to 25 November 2022, or until the appointment of a new member at the fiftieth regular session of the Board, whichever is later:

Ms. Yuko Keicho (Japan) WEOG

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020
Decision IDB.48/Dec.7  Inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled resolution GC.18/Res.9 on inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries, which adopted the UNIDO Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries, and requested the Director General to prepare a workplan for its implementation;

(b) Recognized the unique challenges faced by middle-income countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery;

(c) Took note of the Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries: Workplan Proposal, annexed to the Director General report (IDB.48/15);

(d) Requested the Director General to finalize the workplan through consultations with Member States and ensuring the inclusion of recovery efforts in the context of the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and taking into consideration opportunities at the United Nations system level offered by the reform of the United Nations development system, and present it for consideration to the Board at its forty-ninth session.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

Decision IDB.48/Dec.8  UNIDO’s strategy for post-conflict/-crisis situations

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled resolution GC.10/Res.6 on “UNIDO activities in countries emerging from crisis situations”, and the Director General’s subsequent report to the twenty-eighth session of the Board (IDB.28/5) on UNIDO activities in countries emerging from crisis situations;

(b) Took note of the independent thematic evaluation of UNIDO’s post-crisis interventions conducted in 2015, which recommended developing a strategy and related guidelines for UNIDO’s post-crisis work;

(c) Underlined the importance of the consultative process conducted by the Secretariat with Member States, including through the regional groups, to ensure full ownership of UNIDO’s strategy for post-conflict/-crisis situations;

(d) Took note of the report by the Director General (IDB.48/16/Rev.1);

(e) Took note of UNIDO’s strategy for post-conflict/-crisis situations, as included in IDB.48/CRP.13, and approved its implementation;

(f) Requested the Director General to report on the implementation of UNIDO’s strategy for post-conflict/-crisis situations to the General Conference at its nineteenth session.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

Decision IDB.48/Dec.9  Evaluation activities

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the report on evaluation activities (IDB.48/24);

(b) Reiterated its support to the evaluation function for accountability, learning and contribution to development effectiveness;

(c) Encouraged further outcome- and impact-driven strategic evaluations and the incorporation of its findings on performance and lessons learned into management actions and strategic planning processes;
(d) Encouraged further exploring synergetic approaches, to ensure adequate operational funding for evaluation and internal oversight activities, for increased coverage and enhanced independence of oversight functions.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

Decision IDB.48/Dec.10 Charter of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight

The Industrial Development Board:
(a) Took note of the report by the Secretariat on the Charter of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight (IDB.48/25);
(b) Approved the revised Charter contained in the annex to that report;
(c) Requested the Director General to promulgate the revised Charter.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

Annex

CHARTER OF THE OFFICE OF EVALUATION AND INTERNAL OVERSIGHT OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

I. Preamble

1. The Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight (ODG/EIO) (the “Office”) shall be an internal body organizationally located within the Office of the Director General of UNIDO. The head of the Office shall be the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight (the “Director”). The Office shall enjoy operational independence relating to the performance and operations of its evaluation, internal audit and investigation functions, in accordance with the terms of the present Charter.

2. In order to discharge its mandate, the Office is composed of two divisions: the Independent Evaluation Division (EIO/IED), and the Internal Oversight Division (EIO/IOD).

II. Mandate

3. The Office shall be responsible for providing independent and objective assurance, advice, investigations, and evaluations, for the purpose of adding value to, and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of, the operations, internal control framework, risk management, results-based management, and governance processes of the Organization. The Office shall provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful, in order to enable the timely incorporation of findings, recommendations, management action plans, and lessons learned into decision-making processes at Organization-wide, programme, and project level. The Office shall also assess the extent to which the programmes and projects of UNIDO, as well as their thematic areas, correctly address and effectively achieve the stated objectives of the Organization.

4. The Office shall be the organizational focal point for liaising with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) regarding its activities in relation to UNIDO.

5. The Office shall cooperate as necessary with the relevant services of other international organizations in order to contribute to the oversight of joint or coordinated activities.
6. The Office shall function as the Secretariat for the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee to facilitate the work of the Committee in accordance with its mandate.

III. **Director of the Office**

7. The Director of the Office shall be appointed by the Director General, who may terminate the appointment of the Director in accordance with the terms and conditions of his or her appointment. The Director General shall consult the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee on the appointment and termination of the Director.

8. The Director shall be accountable to the Director General and shall be responsible for the overall functioning and performance of the Office.

9. The Director shall have authority over the staff and the budgetary resources of the Office. The Director shall be authorized to take such personnel and operational decisions in respect of the Office as he or she deems necessary and appropriate, subject to the provisions of the staff regulations and rules and the financial regulations and rules.

10. The Director shall oversee the divisions of the Office (EIO/IOD and EIO/IED) and shall ensure that they conduct their work with proficiency, due professional care, objectivity and stringent regard for the safekeeping and confidentiality of information provided to or discovered by them, as well as with due regard for the regulatory framework of the Organization. The Director shall further ensure appropriate collaboration and coordination between the two divisions in order to promote synergies as much as possible.

11. The Director shall function as the “chief audit executive” of the Organization within the meaning of the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

IV. **Independence and Objectivity**

12. The work of the Office shall remain free from any undue influence or interference whatsoever, whether by management, personnel or any party related or external to the Organization. The Office shall determine the scope of its evaluation, internal audit and investigation activities, and shall perform its work and communicate the results thereof independently.

13. The Office shall independently prepare biennial workplans, which shall be reviewed by the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee. The evaluation workplans shall be based on a gap analysis and shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. The audit workplans shall be based on a risk assessment and shall be submitted to the Director General for approval.

14. In order to preserve the objectivity necessary to render impartial and unbiased judgment in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, the Director and staff of the Office shall **not:**

   (a) Actually have, or have had, in the previous 12 months managerial authority over, or operational responsibility for, any of the activities subject to evaluation, internal audit or investigation;

   (b) Design, develop, configure, test, deploy or install systems; or draft or design processes, policies and procedures;

   (c) Initiate or approve accounting transactions external to the Office;

   (d) Direct or supervise the activities of any personnel not part of the Office, except to the extent that such personnel have been assigned to or requested to assist the Office;

   (e) Perform any other managerial or operational functions for UNIDO; or
(f) Engage in any activity that could impair, in fact or appearance, their individual objectivity or the independence of the Office.

15. Staff of the Office shall promptly declare to the Director, through the Chief of the respective division, any impairment, in fact or appearance, of their individual objectivity in relation to an assigned activity. Staff of the Office shall also promptly report to the Director any situation in which an actual or potential impairment of the independence of the Office may reasonably be inferred, and any questions as to whether a situation constitutes an impairment of their individual objectivity or of the independence of the Office.

16. The Director shall declare to the Director General, the Industrial Development Board, and the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee any situation representing an impairment of his or her individual objectivity or of the functional independence of the Office.

17. The annual report of the Director on the activities of the Office shall confirm the independence of the Office and declare whether any situation has occurred representing an impairment of its objectivity or its functional independence.

18. The Office shall not be competent to investigate itself. In particular, the Office shall not investigate allegations of wrongdoing on the part of the Director of the Office or the staff of the Internal Oversight Division. The Office shall refer any such allegations to the Director General for appropriate action.

19. In the case of a finding of wrongdoing against the Director General, the Director shall consult the President of the Industrial Development Board and inform the Chairperson of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee.

V. Authority

20. The Office shall have full authority in conducting its evaluation, internal audit and investigation functions and activities. In particular, the Office shall be free from interference in determining the objectives, scope, timing and manner of performance of its work, and in communicating the results thereof to relevant parties in accordance with the provisions of this Charter.

21. The Director of the Office shall have unrestricted access to, and shall be entitled to communicate and interact directly with, the Director General and the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee, including in private meetings.

22. In carrying out their internal oversight functions under this Charter, the Director and staff of the Office shall have:

   (a) Full, free, unrestricted and prompt access to all organizational records (in paper and electronic format), property, personnel, operations and functions that, in the opinion of the Office, are relevant to the subject matter under review;

   (b) Access to official email accounts, provided that the Director General shall be informed thereof;

   (c) Authority to communicate with all personnel, at all levels in the Organization; and

   (d) Authority to request any personnel to provide information and explanations that the Office deems necessary to discharge its functions.

23. In the fulfilment of its functions, the Office may make use of its own staff, consultants, contractors, or other personnel assigned to the Office, as appropriate. In this Charter, the term “staff of the Office” comprises all of the above categories.

VI. Professional Standards

24. The Office shall conduct its internal audit work in conformity with the Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing of the Institute of
Internal Auditors, and in conformity with the provisions of the Institute’s *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, Code of Ethics* and *Definition of Internal Auditing*.

25. The Office shall conduct its investigation work in conformity with the principles and guidelines contained in the *Uniform Guidelines for Investigations*, as endorsed by the Conference of International Investigators in its latest version.

26. The Office shall conduct its evaluation work in conformity with the norms and standards contained in the *Norms and Standards for Evaluation* of the United Nations Evaluation Group.

27. The Director of the Office, in cooperation with the Chiefs of the divisions, shall take appropriate steps to maintain and strengthen the technical competence and professional standing of the staff of the Office, inter alia, through on-the-job and specialized training, and a quality assurance and improvement programme.

VII. Supplementary Policies

28. Supplementary policies containing on independent evaluation, internal audit, and investigation shall be promulgated as Administrative Instructions and/or Director General bulletins. The policies shall be prepared by the Office and shall be subject to periodic review, taking into account the advice of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee.

29. The Director of the Office may issue additional standard operating procedures for the work of the Office, as required.

VIII. Reporting

30. The Director of the Office shall periodically provide the Director General, the Industrial Development Board and the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee with information on the status and results of the workplans of the Office and on the adequacy of its resources.

31. The Director shall submit an annual report on the activities of the Office to the Industrial Development Board and circulate copies of the report simultaneously to the Director General and Member States.

32. Specific reporting requirements shall be provided in the supplementary policies referred to in paragraph 28, above.

33. The Director shall furnish copies of relevant evaluation and internal audit reports to the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee for its information.

IX. Requirements of Management and Personnel

34. Within the budgetary resources of the Organization, the Director General shall ensure that the Office is provided with the resources necessary for it to discharge its functions under this Charter. Such resources shall include appropriate staffing, adequate funding and suitable training. When the Office cannot fully discharge its functions due to resource constraints, the Director of the Office should disclose this situation to the Director General, the Industrial Development Board and the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee.

35. The management and personnel of UNIDO shall:

   (a) Cooperate fully with the Office and take reasonable steps to provide the Office with such support or assistance as it may request;

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4 In this Charter, the term “personnel” shall mean, unless the context otherwise provides, any and all staff members of UNIDO, holders of individual service agreements, individuals on reimbursable and non-reimbursable loan, Goodwill Ambassadors, interns, and other individuals associated with UNIDO.
(b) Provide the Office with unrestricted access to all organizational records, property and personnel under their authority, which are deemed relevant by the Office;

(c) Provide written responses to reports by the Office, which are submitted to them for their comments;

(d) Develop and implement management action plans to address findings and recommendations made to them by the Office;

(e) Provide the Office, on a regular basis, with information on the status of implementation of such recommendations and action plans;

(f) Promptly advise the Director of the Office of any weakness or breakdown in the internal control framework of the Organization which comes to their attention; and

(g) Promptly report to the Office suspected irregularities and/or wrongdoing involving any organizational funds, property or personnel, or any third parties in a contractual relationship with UNIDO.

36. No action shall be taken against personnel or third parties who cooperate with or provide information to the Office, unless the information was wilfully provided in the knowledge that it was false or with intent to misinform. In such cases, the matter may be referred to the Director General for appropriate action.

37. Responsibility for complying with regulations, rules and applicable laws, for establishing and operating internal control and risk management systems, and for correcting deficiencies and taking mitigating actions, rests with personnel and management. Deterrence of irregularity, wrongdoing, waste of resources, and violation of regulations and rules is the responsibility of management. The prevention of fraud and the protection of the reputation and interests of UNIDO remain the responsibilities of all personnel.

38. The functions and activities of the Office do not in any way relieve personnel of the Organization of the responsibilities assigned to them.

X. Relations with the External Auditor

39. The Director of the Office shall have free and unrestricted access to the External Auditor of UNIDO.

40. Where appropriate, the Director and the External Auditor shall share information and coordinate their activities to ensure wide and effective coverage of the operations and activities of the Organization and to minimize duplication of effort, with due regard for each party’s mandate and responsibilities.

XI. Amendment, Approval and Promulgation

41. The Director General, the Director of the Office and the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee may propose amendments to this Charter.

42. This Charter shall be reviewed by the Director of the Office and the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee, normally at least once every five years.

43. This Charter and any revision thereof shall be approved by the Board and promulgated by the Director General.

Decision IDB.48/Dec.11 UNIDO Staff Pension Committee

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the information contained in document IDB.48/26;
(b) Decided, in accordance with paragraph (c) of General Conference decision GC.18/Dec.16, to elect the following member and alternate member of the UNIDO Staff Pension Committee for the remainder of the biennium 2020–2021:

Member: Mr. Ngakare Keeja (Namibia)
Alternate: Mr. Tarazul Islam (Bangladesh).

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

Decision IDB.48/Dec.12 Selection process for the post of Director General

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the information contained in document IDB.48/27;

(b) Decided to convene a candidates’ forum on 25 May 2021, which will be conducted in accordance with the modalities reproduced in the annex to document IDB.48/27, subject to the proviso that candidates and representatives of Member States may participate virtually if circumstances so require.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

Annex

Procedures for the candidates’ forum for the selection of the Director General5

(a) Each candidate, nominated by his/her Government in accordance with rule 61.2 of the rules of procedure of the Board, will make a presentation to a meeting open to all Member States. The observers (Holy See, Sovereign Order of Malta), accredited intergovernmental organizations that express interest as well as the Staff Council representatives (President and two Vice-Presidents) may also attend the forum;

(b) The meeting will be chaired by the President of the Board and scheduled after the deadline for receipt of candidatures and well in advance of the last regular session of the Board before the session of the Conference which is to appoint the Director General. To minimize costs, it is proposed to schedule the candidates’ forum back to back with the session of the Programme and Budget Committee;

(c) All candidates will be seated at the podium. Each will make a statement of up to 20 minutes. The candidates will speak from a lectern in the order, following the English alphabet, of the names of their nominating countries. The statements should include a presentation of the candidate’s vision for the Organization and the strategic direction he/she would pursue in the event of appointment. Candidates who wish to do so may use PowerPoint;

(d) After all candidates have delivered their statements, the chair will invite Member States wishing to ask questions to write the name of the delegation on a piece of paper and drop it into a box for a draw. When the name of a Member State is drawn, that delegation will ask its question and each candidate will have a maximum of three minutes to respond to it;

(e) The order of responses by candidates will be in the reverse order of the presentations, starting with the last candidate who made his/her presentation;

(f) The chair should ensure that all regional groups are given an opportunity to ask questions. Thus, if several members of one group are drawn, the chair could suggest that another name be drawn from the box;

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5 As reproduced in the annex to document IDB.44/17.
(g) At the end of the meeting, each candidate will be given three minutes to sum up. The order will continue to be that which applies to answers to questions;

(h) The chair, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will ensure that the allocated time, for the statements, answers and the summing up, is respected;

(i) Candidates may speak in any of the UNIDO languages. Full interpretation services will be provided;

(j) Copies of the presentations of candidates will be placed on the Permanent Missions Extranet.

**Decision IDB.48/Dec.13  Relationship agreement with an intergovernmental organization**

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the information provided in document IDB.48/29;

(b) Authorized the Director General, in accordance with Article 19.1 (a) of the Constitution and the guidelines for the relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations (General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, para. 9), and on the basis of the information contained in the annex to document IDB.48/29, to conclude an appropriate relationship agreement with the following intergovernmental organization:

Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC).

*6th plenary meeting*
*25 November 2020*

**Decision IDB.48/Dec.14  Application from a non-governmental organization for consultative status**

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the information contained in documents IDB.48/28;

(b) Decided, in accordance with Article 19.1 (b) of the Constitution and the guidelines for the relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations (General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, para. 17), to grant consultative status with UNIDO to the following non-governmental organization:

World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises (WUSME).

*6th plenary meeting*
*25 November 2020*

**Decision IDB.48/Dec.15  Provisional agenda and date of the forty-ninth session**

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the information contained in document IDB.48/CRP.12;

(b) Decided to approve the following provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report of the Programme and Budget Committee:

(a) Report of the External Auditor for 2020;
(b) Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations;
(c) Report by the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues;
(d) Scale of assessments for apportionment of the regular budget expenses for the biennium 2022–2023;
(e) Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2022–2023;
(f) Mobilization of financial resources;
(g) General risk management strategy;
(h) Appointment of the External Auditor;
(i) Updated medium-term investment proposals.

7. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa.
10. UNIDO activities in the environment and energy.
   (a) Outcome of the consultations on circular economy.
11. Inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries.
12. Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit.
13. UNIDO Independent Oversight Advisory Committee.
14. Evaluation and internal oversight activities.
15. Personnel matters.
16. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.
17. Recommendation of a candidate for the post of Director General.
18. Preparations for the nineteenth session of the General Conference.
19. Provisional agenda and date of the fiftieth session.
20. Adoption of the report.
   (c) Decided to hold its forty-ninth session from 12 to 15 July 2021.

6th plenary meeting
25 November 2020

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## Annex II

### Documents submitted to the Board at its forty-eighth session

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<td>Managing for Results: Update on the implementation of the medium-term programme framework, 2018–2021. Report by the Director General</td>
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