



**Industrial Development Board**  
**Fiftieth session**  
Vienna, 21–23 November 2022

**Programme and Budget Committee**  
**Thirty-eighth session**  
Vienna, 21–22 June 2022  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda  
**Report by the informal working group on  
Programme and Budget Committee-related  
issues**

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

### **Report by the Co-Chairs**

Further to the update on the report of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues contained in document IDB.49/CRP.8, the present document provides an update on the meetings of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues (IWG) since July 2021. Member States can access all relevant presentations, background documents and summary notes provided to the working group through the UNIDO Member States extranet at [extranet.unido.org](http://extranet.unido.org).

## **I. Overview of meetings: dates and topics**

1. Since 2 July 2021, the IWG held two substantive meetings as follows:
  - (a) 4 November 2021, on budgetary flexibility; and
  - (b) 19 November 2021, on the presentation of candidates for the post of External Auditor.

## **II. Discussion on budgetary flexibility (4 November 2021)**

2. The Secretariat explained that since the forty-ninth session of the Board, the status quo on the issue of increased budgetary flexibility remains, noting the existing possibility for Member States to decide at the General Conference to pilot this concept. An IWG member reiterated its reservations towards implementing the concept, while the Co-Chair and another IWG member highlighted that the concept was seen as meritorious by the External Auditor.

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3. The IWG further decided, upon recommendation by the Co-Chairs, to present the candidates for the post of External Auditor to the IWG in advance of the nineteenth session of the General Conference.

4. IWG members also deposited their recommendations for topics to be treated during the IWG's next six-month schedule of meetings to be agreed to, including gender equity and personnel matters; efficiency and effectiveness of programme and budgets implementation; circular economy; budgetary flexibility; the working capital fund; UNIDO's contribution to the United Nations resident coordinator system; and after-service health insurance. The Co-Chairs noted that additional time would be provided to IWG members to send further suggestions in writing.

5. Mr. Reza Ghaebi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the International Organizations in Vienna, announced the handover of his role as Co-Chair of the IWG to a successor from the Group of 77 who has yet to be nominated. The IWG expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the Co-Chair for his excellent work.

### **III. Presentation of candidates for the post of External Auditor (19 November 2021)**

6. Member States nominating a candidate for the post of External Auditor were given the opportunity to present their candidacies to the IWG. The relevant procedures for the presentation of candidates were communicated to the candidates two weeks in advance of the meeting. The following candidates and their audit team members took part: Mr. Agung Firman Sampurna, Chairman of the Audit Board of Indonesia; Mr. Aleksei Kudrin, Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation; and Mr. Metin Yener, President of the Court of Accounts of Turkey. Mr. Mohamed Abdul Jaleel Abbas, Federal Board of Supreme Audit of Iraq, was unable to connect to the virtual meeting due to technical difficulties.

7. Each candidate delivered a presentation addressing guiding questions provided in advance by the IWG Co-Chair. Thereafter, only the Chairs of three of the Regional Groups asked one question each to all candidates, who answered each question in turn. The candidates lastly delivered brief concluding remarks. The Secretariat presented the results of a survey of 13 United Nations-system organizations on budgetary flexibility. The survey focused on budget presentation requirements, transfer allowances, approval authority, mode of approval, type of transfers, and limits on transfers.

### **IV. Nomination of a new Co-Chair**

8. On 26 January 2022, Mr. Gyanveer Singh, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to UNIDO, was approved on a no-objection basis as IWG Co-Chair, to succeed Mr. Reza Ghaebi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the International Organizations in Vienna, who vacated his post as of November 2021.