

Business Innovation Group

Mutual Recognition Statement



Mutual Recognition Statement

Acknowledging General Assembly Resolution 71/243, which calls for entities within the United Nations development system to “operate according to the principle of mutual recognition of best practices in terms of policies and procedures, with the aim of facilitating active collaboration across agencies and reducing transaction costs for Governments and collaborating agencies”;

Recalling the Report of the Secretary-General, *Repositioning the United Nations Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/684)*, and in particular in recognition that the roll out of the Business Operations Strategy at the country level requires “progress on the mutual recognition of policies and procedures by entities of the United Nations development system”, and *responding* to the Secretary-General’s call in the same report for all entities to accelerate their efforts to operate according to the principle of mutual recognition;

Recalling further the initiative of the UN Business Innovations Group to support the Business Operations Strategy as well as to foster UN Country Team common back offices, the formation of common service centers and to increase the number of UN common premises;

Noting that mutual recognition allows an entity to use or rely on another entity’s policies, procedures, system contracts and related operational mechanisms for the implementation of activities without further evaluation, checks or approvals being required;

Noting further that mutual recognition can serve to facilitate the implementation and administration of administrative support activities, create cost-savings and foster collaboration across United Nations entities;

Recognizing that principles for mutual recognition are that participating United Nations entities:

- maintain sound financial management and internal control systems to ensure that funds are used for the purposes intended with due attention to considerations of efficiency and effectiveness;
- subject their financial and administrative management systems to internal and external auditing arrangements in line with internationally accepted standards;
- reaffirm their commitment to the single-audit principle;
- ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to significantly mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption and to address allegations and proven instances of fraud and corruption; and
- undertake appropriate measures, including capacity strengthening, to mitigate risks posed by any weakness identified in their financial and administrative management systems and arrangements.

Affirming that our respective entities meet these prerequisites and wish to advance the Business Operations Strategy and to foster progress in the goals pursued by the Business Innovations Group;

Hereby *commit* to apply, to the greatest extent practicable, the principle of mutual recognition in respect of the administration and implementation of our entities’ activities;

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and further hereby *commit* to work initially to implement the principle in the following specific areas in the context of the Business Operations Strategy at the country level and the initiatives of the Business Innovation Group:

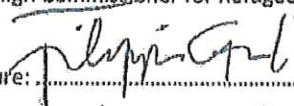
- Finance
- Human resources
- Procurement
- Logistics
- Information and communications technology
- Facility services

The parties hereto agree and sign this document, as follows:

For: UNHCR

Name: Filippo Grandi

Title: High Commissioner for Refugees

Signature: 

Date: 5 Nov, 2018

For: WFP

Name: David Beasley

Title: Executive Director

Signature: 

Date: 5 Nov 2018

For: UNDP

Name: Achim Steiner

Title: Administrator

Signature: 

Date: 8/11/18

For: UNPPA

Name: Natalia Kanem

Title: Executive Director

Signature: 

Date: 12 Nov, 2018

For: United Nations

Name: António Guterres

Title: Secretary-General

Signature: 

Date: 30/11/18

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For: UNICEF

Name: Henrietta Fore

Title: Executive Director

Signature: *Henrietta Fore*

Date: *6 November, 2018*

For: ILO

Name: Guy Ryder

Title: Director-General

Signature: *Guy Ryder*

Date: *11.12.2018*

For: UNOPS

Name: Grete Faremo

Title: Executive Director

Signature: *Grete Faremo*

Date: *12/1 2018*

For: WHO¹

Name: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Title: Director General

Signature: *Tedros Adhanom*

Date: *20 December 2018*

For: IOM

Name: António Vitorino

Title: Director General

Signature: *António Vitorino*

Date: *15/10/19*

For: ITU

Name: Houlin Zhao

Title: ITU Secretary-General

Signature: *Houlin Zhao*

Date: *16 Jan 2019*

¹WHO's signature also covers the UN International Computing Centre (ICC)

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For: UNAIDS

Name: Michel Sidibé

Title: Executive Director

Signature: *Michel Sidibé*

Date: *15/02/2019*

For: UNESCO

Name: Audrey Azoulay

Title: Director-General

Signature: *Audrey Azoulay*

Date: *12/2/2019*

For: UNWOMEN

Name: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Title: Executive Director

Signature: *Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka*

Date: *29/03/2019*