

Board of Trustees

Fifty-Ninth Session

UNITAR/BT/59/5

29-30 November 2018

30 November 2018

Geneva, Switzerland

KEY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Item 5: Implementation of the 2018–2021 Strategic Framework

The Board took note of the observations made and the update on the implementation of the 2018–2021 Strategic Framework, and commended Management for the alignment of programming to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Item 6: Programming and reporting

Item 6a: 2016–2017 Programme Performance Report, 2017 Results Report and Key Performance Indicators

The Board took note of the observations made, the 2016-2017 Programme Performance Report, the 2017 Results Report and the Key Performance Indicators. The Board requested Management to include age and disabilities in the disaggregated data in future reports.

Item 6b: Fit-for-Purpose: UNITAR Programming and Frontier Issues

The Board took note of the observations made and the note on Fit-for-Purpose: UNITAR Programming and Frontier Issues. The Board endorsed the following specific recommendations for Management:

1. Develop a learning module on ethics and the Internet.
2. Consider developing training programmes based on the recommendations of the Digital Cooperation Panel, once issued.
3. Modernize learning programmes and mainstream the use of applicable technologies in UNITAR's programming.
4. Develop partnerships with the academic and business sectors, including larger companies, to develop relevant training programmes, and support small and medium sized enterprises in the field of cybersecurity.
5. Continue to use virtual reality, 3D and other innovations for learning and continue to deliver the modules in multilateral diplomacy, In the area of big data, explore how partnerships with companies who are the repositories of big data can be developed for the benefit of countries in special situations, together with UN partners.

Item 6c: Education and Training for those Furthest Behind in Africa

The Board took note of its discussions and the note on Education and Training for Those Furthest Behind in Africa. The Board noted in particular:

1. the changing demographics in Africa and the need for UNITAR to give priority to programmes for promoting opportunities for job creation and employability;
2. the need to promote enhanced coordination, including multi-stakeholder coordination; and for working to strengthen institutional capacity development, including through training of trainer approaches, with the aim to reach more individuals in need of learning;
3. from a thematic perspective, explore health-related areas in programming; and
4. to have clear goals, ensure added value for people and consistently monitor, evaluate, review and make the shifts for activities to become more relevant.

Item 6d: Results and lessons learned from recent evaluations

The Board took note of the observations made and the presentation on the results of recent evaluations and lessons learned.

Item 7: Finance and budget

Items 7a: Financial statements for the year-ended 31 December 2017 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 2017, commended the Executive Director on the healthy financial state of the Institute, took note of the Report of the Board of Auditors, approved the revised Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy and the UNITAR Enterprise Risk Management Policy, and requested that Management report to the Board on the implementation of the policies at its Sixtieth Session.

Items 7b: Internal audit

The Board took note of the terms of reference of the internal audit on human resources management.

Items 7c: Report on the Application of the cost recovery approach and the situation of the General Fund

The Board took note of the Finance Committee's observations and Management's report on the application of the cost recovery approach and the situation of the General Fund.

Items 7d: 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 7e: Proposed Revision to the Programme Budget for the Biennium 2018-2019

The Board took note of the observations made by members during its discussion of the Proposed Revision to the Programme Budget for the Biennium 2018-2019 and of the Report of the Finance Committee. The Board adopted the Proposed Revision to the Programme Budget for the Biennium 2018-2019 as proposed. The Board requested Management to mature the Horizontal Learning Services concept and report to the Board at the Sixtieth Session.

Item 7f: Update on the use of the revolving fund from the General Fund

The Board took note of the Finance Committee's observations and the update on the use of the revolving fund from the General Fund.

Item 7g: Update on the implementation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy

The Board took note of the Finance Committee's observations and the update on the implementation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and approved the proposed changes to the Policy Guidelines for Agreements with Finance Implications for the Disbursement of Funds to Implementing Partners. The Board requested Management to revise the strategy as a broader partnership development strategy, with both financial and non-financial components.

Item 7h: Strategic Framework Fund

The Board took note of the Finance Committee's observations and approved the establishment of the Strategic Framework Fund and the Governing Principles as revised with a due diligence exercise to be undertaken on acceptance of funds from non-State contributors.

Item 7i: UNITAR Investment Management and Returns Strategy

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

Item 8: Dates for the Sixtieth Session of the Board and adoption of the Fifty-Ninth Session's conclusions and recommendations

The Board agreed to convene in Geneva from 28-29 November 2019 for its Sixtieth Session. The Board agreed to adopt the report of the conclusions and recommendations of its Fifty-Ninth Session as a follow-up to the session.