IN BRIEF

WHAT THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REPOSITIONING MEANS FOR UN WOMEN

What is the issue?
The adoption of the General Assembly resolution 72/279 on 31 May 2018 kick started one of the most comprehensive transformations of the UN development system.

This is an opportunity for UN Women to strengthen our way of working to ensure we are fit for purpose, and that the UN system delivers to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

How is the UN development system changing?

• A new generation of United Nations country teams
• Reinvigorated role of the resident coordinator system
• Revamping the regional approach
• Strategic direction, oversight and accountability for system-wide results
• Funding the United Nations development system
How do these changes affect UN Women’s…

… strategic direction?

• Our strategic plan is already well aligned to support the implementation of the envisioned changes. Our collaborative evidence-based approach, including the common chapter with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, positions us well to support system-wide strategic initiatives.
• We are developing a new knowledge management strategy to embed the transfer of our know-how and expertise in gender equality and women’s empowerment across the UN system.

… regional offices?

• Changes at the regional level will depend on our refined country typology and the requirements for regional-level support.
• We will ensure adequate regional level support to UNCTs as a non-resident agency in countries where we cannot be present.

… Headquarters?

• We will adjust reporting lines at the senior management level to break silos, increase efficiency and improve our support to country and regional offices.
• In 2019 we will consider decentralizing some of our HQ capacity to other locations.
• Immediate adjustments include the revisions of the portfolios of the two Deputy Executive Directors/Assistant Secretary Generals. One DED/ASG will oversee policy and programmes, whereas the other will oversee management and finance, including HR and financial resources. Regional Directors will report directly to a DED/ASG.
• The policy and programme divisions will work under the leadership of one director to increase synergies and enhance support to field offices.

… country offices?

• We will tailor our country presence in line with national priorities and the new UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). This means building on our current country presence, identifying new models and experimenting with pilots, such as co-location with other UN entities.
• We will review and define our country presence typology to ensure we are present where we are needed the most, in line with our resource availability.
• We will support the creation of common back-offices to enhance efficiency. Currently, about half of our country offices benefit from commons services such as procurement, ICT, human resources and financial management.
• The new resident coordinator system will be separate from UNDP, strengthening authority and accountability. We will implement a matrixed reporting model for our representatives with dual accountability to UN Women and the resident coordinator.