



UNITED NATIONS
BOARD OF AUDITORS



TRIBUNAL DE CONTAS DA UNIÃO

United Nations Board of Auditors Reports on UN Women for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

UN Women Executive Board Presentation
Board of Auditors

18 February 2026



Audit opinion on the 2024 financial statements



Unqualified audit opinion

Financial statements present fairly, in all material respects:

- Financial position
- Financial performance
- Cash flows



Prepared in accordance with **IPSAS**



Audit Scope and Methodology

- Global, risk-based audit
- Focus on areas of higher risk and materiality
- Combination of interim and final audit work
- Testing of transactions, controls and key estimatives



Field Work and Country Visits

- Headquarters: New York
- Regional Offices:
 - East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)
 - Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO)
- Selected country office:
 - Kenya





Overall conclusion and key areas

- The Board identified no significant errors, omissions or misstatements in UN Women's financial statements.
- However, the Board identified room for improvement in two key areas: Programme Partners and Financial Management.



Weaknesses in the Assurance Process for Implementing Partners

Context: The objective of assurance activities is to verify that resources transferred to implementing partners are used for their intended purposes and in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

- **Delays in Planning:** Late finalization of the annual assurance plan.
- **Reduced Coverage:** Reduction in audit scope due to partner exclusions and methodology design flaws.



Lack of Clarity in the Second Line for Partner Selection and Monitoring

Context: The second line oversees risks and controls, ensures the effectiveness of the first line, provides risk mitigation oversight and conducts quality assurance.

- Inconsistent structure of second-line oversight regarding the selection and monitoring of Programme Partners.
- Lack of managerial support and structured oversight over Country Offices.
- Resulted in non-adherence to established norms.



Absence of an integrated partner profile

Context: The 2022–2025 Strategic Plan positions partners as essential to achieving objectives, requiring a structured framework for engagement, alignment, and risk management.

- **Fragmented View:** The system lacks a centralized profile for each partner, providing only a view of individual agreements rather than a comprehensive engagement history;
- **Risk Management:** Limits the ability to **track** long-term partner development and **identify** recurring issues or systemic risks.



Incorrect calculation and reporting of operational reserve

Context: The purpose of the operational reserve is to cover downward fluctuations or shortfalls in resources, uneven cash flows, increases in actual costs compared to planning estimates, and other contingencies.

- **Outdated Calculation:** UN-Women has not adjusted its operational reserve since 2018.
- **Financial risk:** The disclosed value may not reflect actual operational needs or current financial risks.



Implementation of Audit Recommendations

Report and audit year	Recommendations pending as at 31 December 2023	Implemented	Under implementation	Not implemented	Overtaken by events	Recommendations pending as at 31 December 2024
2022	2	2	0	-	0	0
2023	12	4	8	-	0	8
Total	14	6	8	-	0	8
Percentage		43%	57%	-	0	



Thank you!