

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Office of Audit and Investigations



AUDIT

OF

UNDP SEOUL GLOBAL POLICY CENTRE

Report No. 2405
Issue Date: 3 June 2021

Report on the Audit of UNDP Global Policy Centre, Seoul Executive Summary

The UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) conducted an audit of UNDP Global Policy Centre in Seoul, Republic of Korea (the Centre) from 26 April to 14 May 2021. The audit aimed to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance, risk management and control processes relating to the following areas and sub-areas:

- (a) Governance
- (b) Development activities
- (c) Donor Relations
- (d) Operations – procurement, finance, human resources, administrative service

The audit covered the activities of the Centre from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020. The Centre recorded programme and management expenses of approximately \$1.4 million in 2020 and \$1.7 million in 2019. This was the first audit of the Centre.

The audit was conducted in conformance with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the audit was conducted remotely. Scope limitations due to the nature of the remote audit related to the following activities:

- (a) A review of original supporting documentation could not be carried out, and therefore the audit team relied on scanned copies of documents provided by the Centre for all audit areas reviewed.*
- (b) Meetings with Centre staff and personnel were carried out virtually, which limited the audit team's understanding of the Centre's working environment.*
- (c) A physical verification of assets was not performed.*
- (d) The information communication and technology area was not reviewed on-site.*

Overall audit rating

OAI assessed the Centre's performance as **fully satisfactory**, which means "The assessed governance arrangements, risk management practices and controls were adequately established and functioning well. Issues identified by the audit, if any, are unlikely to affect the achievement of the objectives of the audited entity/area."

Key recommendations: Total = **1**, high priority = **0**


The audit did not result in any high (critical) priority recommendations. There is one medium (important) priority recommendation. This recommendation includes actions to formalize a strategy to identify Country Offices that should be invited to submit proposals for seed funding and advisory support, in the context of the Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Management comments and action plan

The Centre's Director accepted the recommendation and is in the process of implementing it. Comments and/or additional information provided have been incorporated in the report, where appropriate.



Low risk issues (not included in this report) have been discussed directly with management and actions have been initiated to address them.


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