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United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Compendium of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session of 2019

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2019/9**Working methods***The Executive Board*

1. *Reaffirms* the rules of procedure of the Executive Board of UNICEF;
2. *Welcomes* the written account of the core group of Member States that led the joint consultative process with Member States, in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to examining the efficiency and quality of its current sessions, as well as the functions of the joint meeting of the Executive Boards in line with decisions 2019/1 and 2018/14;
3. *Recognizes* the technical support provided by the secretariats of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UNICEF, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Boards to the core group and notes the annex to the written account as prepared by the secretariats;
4. *Stresses* that the overarching principles of the discussion on working methods of the Executive Boards are the preservation of executive guidance and oversight of agencies; avoidance of duplication with the function of the Economic and Social Council operational activities segment and the respective Executive Boards; and respect for the different mandates and characteristics of each agency, fund, programme and entity;
5. *Requests* UNICEF, in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, to organize joint informal briefings/consultations and strongly encourages that they be scheduled within socially acceptable hours to allow the WFP Executive Board to participate from Rome;
6. *Also requests* the secretariat of the UNICEF Executive Board, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, to present initial proposals to improve the working methods of the joint meeting of the Boards, including an optimal timing for convening the joint meeting of the Boards, for consideration by Member States at the second regular session of 2019, mindful that the joint meeting of the Boards does not have decision-making authority and of the need to avoid duplication and overlap with the functions of the Economic and Social Council operational activities segment;
7. *Further requests* that the secretariat propose different alternatives for adjusting the date of the second regular session, mindful that it does not overlap with the other schedules, for consideration by the Executive Board at the second regular session of 2019;
8. *Requests* that an informal meeting of the Presidents of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, at no cost to the organizations, be held on a regular basis for enhanced harmonization of common issues, and for increased coordination among agencies, funds, programmes and entities and the respective Executive Boards, while bearing in mind that, according to the rules of procedure of the Executive Boards, the Presidents remain under the authority of the respective Executive Boards and do not have the authority to make decisions on any substantive matters, and that the outcome of the meetings be shared with the wider membership;
9. *Affirms* the need to elect the Bureau members early on to minimize leadership gaps and enhance the efficient functioning of the Presidency and Executive Board at large;

10. *Recommends* that, for continuity and smooth transition between outgoing and incoming Bureaux, whenever appropriate and consistent with the relevant rules of procedure, regional groups could consider taking appropriate measures so that one of the Vice-Chairs/Vice-Presidents of the Bureau can take on the Chair/Presidency and could be effective in that capacity in the following year;

11. *Notes* the need for flexibility on chairing the informal meetings of the Executive Board from the President of the Bureau or one of the Vice-Presidents;

12. *Requests* that the secretariat, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UN-Women, continue convening consecutive formal sessions of the Executive Boards in order to avoid gaps between the formal sessions of the various Executive Boards;

13. *Also requests* that the secretariat present practical proposals for improving the efficiency of the sessions of the Executive Board, including by reviewing the agenda items and the Board's efficient consideration of these, for deliberation and consideration by the Executive Board at the second regular session of 2019;

14. *Further requests* that the Executive Board, with the support of the secretariat, make its sessions interactive, while securing the time slot for group and national statements as appropriate and necessary;

15. *Requests* that, while encouraging interactive discussions, any format for enhanced interaction with the heads of the agencies should contain follow-up actions within existing mechanisms;

16. *Encourages* the heads of agencies, funds, programmes and entities participating in Board sessions to provide the full texts of their statements or opening remarks (presentation) online in advance and deliver shorter statements at the Executive Board sessions. The statements and presentations should be concise in highlighting the main issues, evidenced-based and action-oriented in addressing the challenges;

17. *Strongly encourages* the President to enforce implementation of time limits for statements;

18. *Affirms* the participation of diverse stakeholders in Executive Board sessions with full respect of the relevant clauses in the rules of procedure and based on the agreement of the Executive Board, recalls decision 2018/14, paragraph 11, and reaffirms the importance of giving due consideration to gender parity in the composition of panelists participating in the Executive Board;

19. *Requests* the Bureau to decide the destination of field visits two years in advance, while allowing the flexibility to change host countries if circumstances dictated, in order to give host countries as well as agencies as much time as possible to prepare for the visits;

20. *Also requests* the Bureau, assisted by the secretariat, to consult with the Bureaux of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP to coordinate for the selection of field visits and to propose harmonized criteria for individual field visits, for evaluation by the Board at the first regular session of 2020;

21. *Further requests* the secretariat of UNICEF to circulate proposed draft decisions to the wider membership at least four weeks prior to each session, at the discretion of the Bureau, and reiterates its strong encouragement to Member States to provide their comments on draft decisions, to the extent possible, prior to the start of the session, with a view to starting substantive consultations on the draft decisions on the first day of negotiations, without pre-empting bringing in additional proposals during negotiations;

22. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP, to track the implementation of Executive Board decisions using the matrix of common use as attached to the written account of the core group;

23. *Also requests* the secretariat to distribute the minutes of Bureau meetings to members and observers of the Executive Board once these minutes have been approved by the Bureau;

24. *Reiterates* the request that the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF regularly update the joint online calendar of all Board meetings in real time so as to avoid overlap of schedules with other funds and programmes as well as major official meetings, including the Economic and Social Council operational activities segment.

*Annual session
13 June 2019*

2019/10

Annual report for 2018 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2018 of the Executive Director of UNICEF, including the report on the implementation of the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021; the report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR); the report on the implementation of the common chapter; and the data companion and scorecard;

2. *Requests* UNICEF to include in future reporting to the Executive Board on the implementation of the QCPR the milestones and targets set out for each reported QCPR indicator;

3. *Decides* to transmit the above-mentioned reports to the Economic and Social Council, along with a summary of the comments and guidance of the Executive Board.

*Annual session
13 June 2019*

2019/11

Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action ([E/ICEF/2019/12](#));

2. *Welcomes* the continued increase in dialogue between the UNICEF secretariat and the Executive Board on the critical work of UNICEF in humanitarian action, including through improvements to the annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action and more geographic diversity;

3. *Recalls* its decision 2018/9 and urges UNICEF to include reporting on the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action in subsequent annual reports on humanitarian action;

4. *Requests* UNICEF to include information on the revision process of the Core Commitments for Children, including a time plan, in the oral update on humanitarian action at the second regular session of 2019.

*Annual session
13 June 2019*

2019/12

UNICEF programme cooperation

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* that the country programme document for the Congo ([E/ICEF/2019/P/L.3](#)), including the aggregate indicative budget, was made available to Member States for their comments and input from 18 March to 5 April 2019, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1 on modifications to procedures for consideration and approval of country programme documentation;

2. *Approves* on a no-objection basis, and in accordance with decision 2014/1, the country programme document for the Congo ([E/ICEF/2019/P/L.3](#)), including the aggregate indicative budget.

*Annual session
11 June 2019*

2019/13

Extensions of ongoing country programmes

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the two-month extension of the country programme for Mali and the first one-year extension of the country programme for Tunisia, which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1 of document [E/ICEF/2019/P/L.4](#);

2. *Approves* the one-year extension of the country programme for Yemen, following two previous one-year extensions and a previous two-year extension, as presented in table 2 of document [E/ICEF/2019/P/L.4](#).

*Annual session
13 June 2019*

2019/14

Evaluation reports and management responses

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2018 on the evaluation function in UNICEF ([E/ICEF/2019/14](#)) and its management response ([E/ICEF/2019/15](#)), and welcomes the timely implementation of the revised evaluation policy;

2. *Welcomes* that UNICEF had the highest number of evaluations since 2012, and takes note with appreciation of the addition of three senior evaluation specialists at the regional level and the increase in spending on evaluation to 0.8 per cent of total programme expenditure in 2018, and requests UNICEF to reach the target of 1 per cent by the end of 2019, in accordance with its decision 2018/10;

3. *Also welcomes* the continued coordination of the Evaluation Office within the United Nations development system and the good progress on the evaluation of UNICEF

activities, but notes with concern a reduction in the evaluation rate in some regions and the substantial increase in management-response actions that are not yet started, and requests UNICEF to address these issues and report back to the Executive Board at the annual session of 2020;

4. *Further welcomes* the summary of corporate evaluations, evaluability assessments, syntheses and reviews completed in 2018 and requests UNICEF to hold an informal briefing on the evaluation on innovation on the margins of the second regular session of 2019 and to present the report and its management response at the first regular session of 2020;

5. *Requests* the Evaluation Office to demonstrate progress in building its capacity to undertake gender-based analysis in evaluations and include this analysis in summary reports to the Executive Board;

6. *Takes note* of the evaluation of the coverage and quality of the UNICEF humanitarian response in complex humanitarian emergencies, its executive summary (E/ICEF/2019/16) and its management response (E/ICEF/2019/17);

7. *Requests* UNICEF to develop structured approaches to accountability towards affected populations and to country-level dialogue with implementing partners about humanitarian principles;

8. *Encourages* all country offices in complex humanitarian emergencies to make use of vulnerability analysis clearly identifying the girls and boys most in need;

9. *Requests* UNICEF to demonstrate progress towards resolving the dilemma of how to balance coverage and equity in complex humanitarian emergencies in the annual report for 2019 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, which will be presented to the Executive Board at its annual session in 2020.

*Annual session
13 June 2019*

2019/15

Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2018, and management response

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2018 (E/ICEF/2019/18) and its management response (E/ICEF/2019/19);

2. *Appreciates* the increased activities of the Ethics Office in providing advice and guidance to staff and management on ethical issues, and welcomes the proactive role of the Principal Adviser, Ethics, in promoting ethical standards system-wide and within UNICEF;

3. *Requests* UNICEF to fully implement the UNICEF-related recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its review of whistle-blower policies and practices in United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2018/4) and requests the Ethics Office to report on progress at the annual session of 2020;

4. *Recalls* its decision 2018/11 and requests UNICEF to share a summary of the results and recommendations of the Global Staff Survey 2017 with the Executive Board, and to share a similar summary of the upcoming Global Staff Survey 2019 with the Board at its annual session of 2020;

5. *Recalls* its decision 2018/11 and takes note of the Ethics Office's notable increase in activities and requests UNICEF and the Ethics Office to conduct an assessment of the level of resources provided to the Office, with a view to fulfilling

its mandate, and requests the Office to present the results to the Executive Board at its annual session of 2020.

*Annual session
13 June 2019*

2019/16

Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2018 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2018 annual report to the Executive Board ([E/ICEF/2019/AB/L.3](#)) and its management response ([E/ICEF/2019/AB/L.4](#)) and the report of the Audit Advisory Committee and welcomes the overall opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the organization's framework of governance, risk management and control;

2. *Welcomes* the reporting against key performance indicators related to the work of the Office;

3. *Also welcomes* the inclusion in the 2018 annual report to the Executive Board of more-detailed analysis of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries and sexual harassment in the workplace, in accordance with its mandate, including allegations, investigations and actions taken;

4. *Further welcomes* the establishment of the Child Safeguarding Unit within the Office of the Executive Director of UNICEF;

5. *Takes note* of the significant increase in allegations regarding sexual exploitation and abuse, harassment and abuse of authority;

6. *Encourages* UNICEF management, in its reporting on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, to further enhance transparency on the total number of initial reports and on how the actions to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse ensure a victim-centred approach and are aligned with United Nations system-wide efforts;

7. *Acknowledges* the high implementation rate of audit recommendations and takes note of management's development of action plans to address the most-significant risk areas related to programme management, risk management, accountability, supply, logistics and asset management and safety and security;

8. *Notes with concern* the challenge to recover funds from implementing partners;

9. *Encourages* UNICEF to strengthen the systematic prevention and detection of and response to fraud and misconduct in all its forms in accordance with the UNICEF Anti-Fraud Strategy, taking note with concern of the low number of allegations related to fraud;

10. *Welcomes* the recommendation to UNICEF management to simplify the policy architecture for the better understanding of and compliance with organizational policies and manuals by staff;

11. *Requests* the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations to fill all existing vacancies and requests UNICEF to ensure that the Office is adequately resourced.

*Annual session
13 June 2019*

2019/17

Update on policies and processes of UNICEF on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decisions 2018/8 and 2019/5, and takes note with appreciation of the zero-tolerance approach of the Executive Director to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, within the organization and system-wide, and welcomes the updates presented at this annual session in this regard;

2. *Requests* that UNICEF present the report of the Independent Task Force on Workplace Gender-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Harassment and Abuse of Authority and its management response at the second regular session of the Executive Board in 2019;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the UNICEF strategy to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries and sexual harassment, including actions for victim support, reporting, accountability and partnerships, and stresses the need for adequate resources; and requests that UNICEF present an update on the implementation of the strategy at the annual session of 2020.

*Annual session
13 June 2019*

2019/18

Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the update provided by UNICEF on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

2. *Requests* UNICEF to work towards adequately sequencing entity-specific country programme documents so that the individual programmes derive directly from the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (now renamed United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework), which is to be prepared and finalized in full consultation and agreement with national Governments and is the most important planning document of the United Nations development system at the country level; and requests UNICEF to provide an update at the next session of the Executive Board on adjustments required;

3. *Also requests* UNICEF to provide, for information at the next session of the Executive Board, a detailed mapping of its regional assets and capacities, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) and mindful of ongoing discussions on the revamping of the regional approach of the United Nations development system;

4. *Welcomes* the preliminary update provided by UNICEF on efficiencies, including through shared business operations and premises; calls upon the Executive Director of UNICEF to continue to take action to ensure the full achievement of efficiency gains and their redeployment in line with relevant existing mandates,

including from General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and [72/279](#) on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, as well as to take into account the applicable recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in the report on opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness in administrative support services by enhancing inter-agency cooperation ([JIU/REP/2018/5](#));

5. *Requests* regular updates to the Executive Board on efficiency gains and their redeployments, through existing reporting mechanisms;

6. *Also requests* UNICEF to continue to support the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop a tracking system to monitor efficiency gains;

7. *Welcomes* that UNICEF contributed its doubled contributions to the resident coordinator cost-sharing, and calls on UNICEF to implement the 1 per cent levy, as applicable, as per the operational guidance for implementing the coordination levy (12 March 2019) issued by the United Nations Development Coordination Office;

8. *Recalls* its decision 2018/15 and notes that the agency-administered option for collecting the coordination levy adds administrative tasks to UNICEF and requires adjustments to agency administrative processes, and requests UNICEF to provide information on the adjustments and to promptly report to the Executive Board on any additional transaction and administrative costs associated with the administration of the levy, within existing reporting;

9. *Also recalls* the importance of funding predictability and urges Member States in a position to do so to prioritize regular resources and multi-year pledges;

10. *Encourages* UNICEF, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to place special emphasis on the implementation of their respective strategic plans, including the common chapter on joint programming, in accordance with their respective mandates and comparative and collaborative advantages, and to report at the annual session in 2020, including through the midterm reviews of their respective strategic plans, where and how the inter-agency process among the United Nations funds and programmes has led to greater efficiencies and effectiveness.

*Annual session
13 June 2019*