

*The Executive Board,*

1. *Commends* UNICEF for the quality of the report on the evaluation function contained in document E/ICEF/2004/11, the important progress that it reflects, and its thoroughness in identifying areas for improvement and future challenges;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made to date by the evaluation function in responding to new demands, particularly the increased emphasis on the achievement of results of programmes involving UNICEF, in the context of United Nations operational activities and inter-agency work at the country level;

3. *Notes* that much work remains to be done, including sharpening the strategic focus of evaluation work plans, improving efficiency and raising the overall standards of evaluation work;

4. *Emphasizes* that the evaluation function should be carried out in consultation with national authorities and in compliance with decision 2002/9 (E/ICEF/2002/8/Rev.1);

5. Bearing in mind the above, *encourages* the further strengthening of the evaluation function in UNICEF, with particular emphasis being given to progress in the following areas:

(a) Improving the efficiency and strategic value of the evaluation function by focusing on fewer, high-quality studies, with a strong emphasis on analyzing effectiveness and results;

(b) Continuing to improve the standards of evaluation at the country level, with the guidance of national authorities and building on United Nations system-wide norms and standards for evaluation, with the technical support of the Evaluation Office and regional offices;

(c) Accelerating progress towards joint evaluation work with national authorities, United Nations system and other partners, including with respect to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(d) Continuing and expanding work with national authorities and other partners, and the United Nations country teams, to strengthen national capacity for evaluation work;

(e) Identifying best practices from evaluations for achieving the targets and objectives of the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP), and ensuring that procedures are implemented to enable the findings from evaluations to be systematically fed into the organization to secure organizational learning;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a further report on the work of the evaluation function for consideration by the Executive Board at its annual session in 2006;

7. *Further requests* that key findings from evaluations of the thematic areas of the MTSP be presented and discussed at the Executive Board as and when these become available.