

## 2008/23. Internal audit: UNICEF

### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the UNICEF report on internal audit activities in 2007 (E/ICEF/2008/AB/L.7);
2. *Congratulates* UNICEF on the result of the independent quality assurance review that confirmed a high compliance of the UNICEF Office of Internal Audits with international internal auditing standards and practices;
3. *Welcomes* the further refinement of the UNICEF risk-based audit planning methodology in the internal audit reports *and notes with appreciation* the intention to adopt an organization-wide risk management framework and *requests* UNICEF to report on its preparation in the annual report of internal audit 2009;
4. *Also welcomes* the efforts to harmonize and standardize audit and management ratings with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Office for Project Services, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/18;
5. *Requests* UNICEF to closely consult with the Executive Board in the preparation of the accountability framework foreseen for the first regular session 2009, including through presenting a draft of the report prior to the session;
6. *Expresses concern* about the high percentage of unsatisfactory ratings by audited field offices, especially in the areas of programme management, cash assistance and supply assistance which indicate structural weaknesses, and *calls upon* the UNICEF management to immediately address these issues by following up closely with country offices that have unsatisfactory ratings and by implementing measures to strengthen the performance of all country offices in these areas, and *requests* UNICEF to report in summary to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2009 on the measures taken and progress made in this field, as part of the annual report on internal audit activities;
7. *Notes* that within UNICEF mechanisms are in place to track the status of the implementation of audit recommendations and *commends* UNICEF for the high implementation rate of audit recommendations;
8. *Commends* UNICEF for its recent anti-fraud measures and *notes that* these measures have led to increased reporting of alleged misconduct and abuse of authority by staff members, and *requests* UNICEF to report in summary to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2009 on the outcomes of the investigations, as part of the annual report on internal audit activities;
9. *Requests* the UNICEF management to report on progress made and lessons learned in implementing the harmonized approach to cash transfers, including in connection with the development of procedures and reporting mechanisms, in conjunction with the annual report on internal audit at the second regular session in 2009;

10. *Calls upon* UNICEF to present its management response to the annual report of internal audit as an official document for consideration by the Executive Board.

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*Second regular session  
18 September 2008*