

Oral report on decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004 that are of relevance to UNICEF: background note

The secretariat will provide a short update on some of the issues which were discussed at the Council's session, including the following highlights:

- (a) The triennial comprehensive policy review, including the Executive Director's presentation at a panel of the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee members, statements by Member States during the operational activities segment and the UNICEF contribution to the report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) Incorporating gender perspectives into programmes and operational activities and to ensure, within their mandates, systematic integration of reporting on efforts in mainstreaming gender into existing evaluation and monitoring processes within the United Nations system, including those relating to the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration;
- (c) Coordination of the work of the United Nations system in humanitarian activities, including protection of civilians in armed conflict; access of humanitarian personnel, supplies and equipment; security risks to humanitarian staff; sensitivity of United Nations and associated personnel to national and local customs and traditions;
- (d) Panel on transition from crisis to development;
- (e) UNICEF support to the *ad hoc* advisory groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi. The secretariat will also report on the reactivation of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Haiti;
- (f) Functional commissions, including the request of the Economic and Social Council that reports of functional commissions clearly identify operational implications of their work for consideration and appropriate action by the governing bodies of United Nations funds and programmes;
- (g) Rural development for poverty eradication, including national efforts to increase school enrolment rates especially for the girl child and the need to provide quality education in rural areas.

* E/ICEF/2004/12.