

2005/9 Implementation of Executive Board decision 2002/4 on approval of country programmes

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and *underlining* that further steps need to be taken to harmonize programming cycles and to synchronize them as far as possible with the national programming instruments, in particular national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist;

1. *Takes note* of the review of the modified procedures for consideration and approval of proposals for country programmes of cooperation (E/ICEF/2005/8);
2. *Recognizes* the progress made in the implementation of Executive Board decision 2002/4 on the approval of country programmes and therefore *reconfirms* the validity of the current approval procedure;
3. Stresses the need to ensure the quality and results orientation of country programme documents as well as their alignment with national priorities in the areas of competence of all agencies involved;
4. *Welcomes* the inclusion of a results matrix in UNICEF country programme documents and *requests* that, if possible, draft results matrices be made available, for information, with the draft country programme documents provided for the consideration of the Executive Board;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNICEF to present to the Executive Board at its annual session of 2006 a report elaborated jointly with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on possible options to further improve and streamline the current harmonized country programme approval procedure, so as to decrease the time frame for developing and approving country programmes and to better synchronize them with the length of cycle of the respective national country programming instruments, bearing in mind the need to maintain the institutional integrity and organizational mandate of each agency.

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10 June 2005*