



Economic and Social Council

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United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Compendium of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2020

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2020/1

Working methods

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* decision 2019/20 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the working methods of the Executive Board and reiterates its requests therein;

2. *Takes note* of the joint response of the Executive Board secretariats on the working methods of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and 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);

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the revised guidelines for the field visits of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and UN-Women, and for the joint field visits of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP;

4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UN-Women, to submit to Member States, ahead of the annual session of 2020, with a view to conclude discussions on the working methods no later than the second regular session, a concrete proposal for a rearranged annual workplan of the Executive Board for 2021, which includes daily schedules of the three sessions and informal consultations, supported by a detailed comparative analysis of potential implications on items for decisions, overall costs, efficiency and oversight, with a view to reducing the workload of the second regular session by shifting agenda items among formal sessions, as appropriate;

5. *Recalls* decision 2018/14 and stresses the need to continue to harmonize the consideration of common agenda items across the respective Executive Board agendas and requests the secretariat of the Executive Board of UNICEF, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UN-Women, to reflect it in the proposal of a rearranged workplan for 2021;

6. *Also recalls* decision 2018/14 and requests UNICEF management to circulate timely written responses to those questions raised at formal sessions of the Executive Board that could not be answered;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the current tracking system of the decisions of the Executive Board and requests the secretariat to put the full text of decisions into the system so that Member States have full oversight on follow-up and fulfilment of decisions, starting in 2019.

*First regular session
13 February 2020*

2020/2

Country programme documents

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* that the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Paraguay ([E/ICEF/2020/P/L.1](#)–[E/ICEF/2020/P/L.4](#)) were made available to Member States for their comments and input from 19 November to 9 December 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 documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Paraguay ([E/ICEF/2020/P/L.1–E/ICEF/2020/P/L.4](#)).

*First regular session
12 February 2020*

2020/3

Extensions of ongoing country programmes

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the first two-month extensions of the country programmes for Argentina and Uruguay; and the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Colombia, Lebanon, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe, all of which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1 of document [E/ICEF/2020/P/L.5](#);

2. *Approves* the three-month extension of the country programme for South Africa, following a previous 15-month extension and a previous one-year extension, as presented in table 2 of document [E/ICEF/2020/P/L.5](#).

*First regular session
13 February 2020*

2020/4

Extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative and its revolving fund

The Executive Board

Approves a five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 2021 to 2025, in accordance with the terms of the original document approved by the Executive Board in 1991 ([E/ICEF/1991/P/L.41](#)) and as amended by the Board in its decision 2015/5.

*First regular session
13 February 2020*

2020/5

Evaluation of innovation in UNICEF work, and management response

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the evaluation of innovation in UNICEF work and its summary ([E/ICEF/2020/3](#)) and takes note of the recommendations and the UNICEF management response ([E/ICEF/2020/4](#));

2. *Emphasizes* the continued importance of cooperation by UNICEF with other United Nations agencies with regard to the development and implementation of innovations, and encourages UNICEF to include information on such cooperation in future reporting;

3. *Encourages* UNICEF to work in close cooperation with the Principal Adviser, Organizational Culture, to succeed in achieving an open and innovative work culture within UNICEF.

*First regular session
13 February 2020*

2020/6**UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 and report of the Board of Auditors, and management response***The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Auditors for the financial period that ended on 31 December 2018 ([A/74/5/Add.3](#)) as well as the management response ([E/ICEF/2020/AB/L.2](#));
2. *Notes* the unqualified audit opinion for 2018 issued by the Board of Auditors for UNICEF;
3. *Calls* for UNICEF management to systematically continue to improve the maturity of risk management at all levels, particularly strengthening accountability and implementation of the internal control frameworks;
4. *Requests* UNICEF to prioritize the follow-up of those identified organizational weaknesses that pose the greatest risks to results achievement;
5. *Also requests* UNICEF to take all necessary measures, including the capacity-building of implementing partners, to ensure the full implementation of the principles and processes stipulated in the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) in all its country offices and regional offices.

*First regular session
13 February 2020*

2020/7**Private Fundraising and Partnerships: 2020 workplan and proposed budget***The Executive Board*

1. *Notes* the high, medium and low revenue scenarios for 2020, as shown in table 3 of document [E/ICEF/2020/AB/L.1](#);
2. *Approves* a budget for special purpose activities of \$151.4 million from regular resources, comprising \$85 million for investment funds and \$66.4 million for other private sector fundraising costs, and the establishment of an other resources ceiling of \$59.9 million based on the medium scenario in table 3;
3. *Authorizes* UNICEF
 - (a) To redeploy resources between the various regular resources budget lines (as detailed in paragraph 1, above), up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved;
 - (b) To increase or decrease expenditures up to the levels indicated in columns I and III of table 3 of document [E/ICEF/2020/AB/L.1](#) should the apparent revenue from fundraising increase or decrease to the levels indicated in columns I and III;
 - (c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2020 approved workplan;

4. *Encourages* the Executive Director to identify and respond to new market opportunities, should they arise, between Executive Board sessions and to notify the Board accordingly;

5. *Approves* an interim one-month allocation for January 2021 of \$15.1 million (or 10 per cent of the special purpose regular resources allocation of \$151.4 million), to be absorbed in the annual Private Fundraising and Partnerships budget for 2021;

6. *Notes with appreciation* that UNICEF will present a full report on the implementation of the Private Sector Plan 2018–2021: IMPACT for Every Child at the second regular session of 2020.

*First regular session
13 February 2020*