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For decision

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Annual session 2024

11–14 June 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work

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Provisional annotated agenda

1. Adoption of the provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work

For decision (E/ICEF/2024/10)

The provisional agenda has been prepared in consultation with the Bureau of the Executive Board on the basis of the programme of work presented to the Board at its second regular session of 2023. The Board will adopt the agenda for the session, making any amendments it considers necessary.

UNICEF focal point:
Mr. Andrés Franco
Secretary of the Executive Board
afranco@unicef.org / 212 326 7663

2. Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF

The Executive Board will hear opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF.

UNICEF focal point:
Mr. Andrés Franco
Secretary of the Executive Board
afranco@unicef.org / 212 326 7663

Programme and policy matters

3. Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and annual report for 2023 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

For decision (E/ICEF/2024/11)

The combined report takes stock of progress made against the targets of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 at the midpoint of its implementation, with the aim of highlighting ongoing gaps and lessons learned and determining necessary course corrections. Included with the report are the following documents: (a) proposed revised Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025; (b) report on the implementation of the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025; (c) report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; (d) description of independent oversight functions/bodies in UNICEF; and (e) a data companion and scorecard.

UNICEF focal point:
Ms. Vidhya Ganesh
Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring
vganesh@unicef.org / 212 824 6247

UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit

For information (E/ICEF/2024/13)

The report summarizes the UNICEF response to recommendations addressed to the organization contained in reports and notes issued by the Joint Inspection Unit from January through December 2023.

UNICEF focal point:
Mr. Nazim Khizar
Deputy Director, Financial Reporting and Grant Management
Division of Financial and Administrative Management
nkhizar@unicef.org / 212 824 6014

4. Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action

For decision (E/ICEF/2024/16)

The annual report presents an overview of the UNICEF response to humanitarian crises in 2023, globally, regionally and at the country level, outlining key challenges and lessons learned in humanitarian action, and how these have informed the UNICEF response. The report also identifies strategic priorities for the coming year.

UNICEF focal point:
Ms. Lana Wreikat
Director a.i., Office of Emergency Programmes
lwreikat@unicef.org / 212 326 7150

5. Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025

For information (E/ICEF/2024/17)

The report provides an update on programmatic and institutional results, including financial resources and expenditures, based on the results matrix, indicators and performance benchmarks of the Gender Action Plan. The report is accompanied by a data companion and scorecard.

UNICEF focal point:
Ms. Lauren Rumble
Associate Director, Gender Equality, Programme Group
lrumble@unicef.org / 212 326 7690

6. UNICEF programme cooperation

Extensions of ongoing country programmes

For decision (E/ICEF/2024/P/L.8)

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2009/11, the Executive Board will be (i) informed of the one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic; and (ii) requested to approve the six-month extension of the country programme for Rwanda, following a one-year extension; the one-year extension of the country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, following three consecutive one-year extensions; and the one-year extension of the country programme for the Sudan, following three consecutive one-year extensions.

UNICEF focal points:
Ms. Vidhya Ganesh
Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring
vganesh@unicef.org / 212 824 6247

Mr. George Laryea-Adjei
Director, Programme Group
glaryeaadjei@unicef.org / 212 326 1080

7. Update on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse*For decision (E/ICEF/2024/14)*

The report describes how UNICEF is preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse in its policies, procedures and operations at headquarters, regional and country levels.

UNICEF focal point:

Ms. Vidhya Ganesh

Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring

vganesh@unicef.org / 212 824 6247

8. Update on organizational culture and diversity*For decision (E/ICEF/2024/15)*

The report provides an update on recent and ongoing progress in making the organizational culture of UNICEF more values-based, diverse and inclusive. Challenges, opportunities and collaboration with other United Nations entities are also highlighted.

UNICEF focal point:

Ms. Geetanjali Narayan

Principal Adviser, Organizational Culture

gnarayan@unicef.org / 212 326 7634

9. Update on implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system*For decision*

In its decision 2018/15, the Executive Board requested UNICEF to continue its engagement with the Board on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) and to provide regular updates on that work. The information note also includes updates on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [76/4](#) on the review of the resident coordinator system, in the context of General Assembly resolution [75/233](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and addresses the requests contained in Executive Board decision 2023/15 adopted at the annual session of 2023. The information note will be accompanied by the United Nations development system reform checklist, as an annex.

UNICEF focal point:

Ms. June Kunugi

Director, Public Partnerships Division

jkunugi@unicef.org / 212 326 7118

Evaluation, audit and oversight matters**10. Evaluation reports and management responses****Annual report for 2023 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and management response***For decision (E/ICEF/2024/20, E/ICEF/2024/21)*

The annual report is prepared in accordance with Executive Board decision 2008/4, which requested that UNICEF report annually on the evaluation function and on the findings and recommendations of evaluations completed each year. The report describes the contextual factors influencing the work of the evaluation function in 2023 and the measures taken to continue meeting the learning and accountability needs of the organization and its stakeholders. It presents an overview of the performance of the evaluation function in 2023, including an analysis of achievements

and challenges encountered during that period, as well as an analysis of the main factors within the function and its operating environment that help to explain those outcomes and examples of particularly influential evaluations and other evaluative activities from across the function. The report also outlines progress in response to requests made in decisions of the Board. The report is accompanied by a management response.

UNICEF focal point for the annual report:

Mr. Robert McCouch
Director of Evaluation
rmccouch@unicef.org / 212 303 7952

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Ms. Vidhya Ganesh
Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring
vganesh@unicef.org / 212 824 6247

Evaluation of UNICEF approaches to advocacy, and management response

For decision (E/ICEF/2024/22, E/ICEF/2024/23)

The evaluation provides crucial and timely evidence to guide the UNICEF advocacy change strategy and enhance the likelihood of advocacy success while also contributing to the assurance of a meaningful future summative evaluation of advocacy efforts by the end of the current UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. The evaluation was commissioned by the UNICEF Evaluation Office in collaboration with the Division of Global Communication and Advocacy. The report is accompanied by a management response.

UNICEF focal point for the evaluation report:

Mr. Robert McCouch
Director of Evaluation
rmccouch@unicef.org / 212 303 7952

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Mr. Naysán Sahba
Director, Division of Global Communication and Advocacy
nsahba@unicef.org / 212 326 7320

Evaluation of UNICEF investments towards institutional strengthening for social and behaviour change, and management response

For decision (E/ICEF/2024/24, E/ICEF/2024/25)

The evaluation assesses how and to what extent investments in social and behaviour change by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UNICEF have improved the institutional capacity of UNICEF to deliver better-quality social and behaviour change programming. The evaluation was commissioned by the UNICEF Evaluation Office in collaboration with the UNICEF Social and Behaviour Change Global Technical Team. The report is accompanied by a management response.

UNICEF focal point for the evaluation report:

Mr. Robert McCouch
Director of Evaluation
rmccouch@unicef.org / 212 303 7952

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Mr. George Laryea-Adjei
Director, Programme Group
glaryeaadjei@unicef.org / 212 326 1080

11. Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2023, and management response*For decision (E/ICEF/2024/18, E/ICEF/2024/19)*

The report of the activities of the Ethics Office and its management response are presented to the Executive Board in accordance with its decisions 2010/18 and 2018/11.

UNICEF focal point for the report:

Mr. El Cid Butuyan
 Director, Ethics Office
ebutuyan@unicef.org / 212 326 7142

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Mr. Bandjougou Magassa
 Director, Division of Human Resources
bmagassa@unicef.org / 212 824 6527

12. Internal audit and investigations**UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2023 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response***For decision (E/ICEF/2024/AB/L.3, E/ICEF/2024/AB/L.3/Add.1, E/ICEF/2024/AB/L.4)*

The report, prepared annually in accordance with Executive Board decision 1997/28, provides an overview of the Office, describes key issues highlighted by its internal audit and investigations work, summarizes the organizational follow-up to the implementation of recommendations and provides information on the disclosure of internal audit reports during 2023. The report is accompanied by an addendum detailing the investigations closed in 2023, as well as a management response.

UNICEF focal point for the report:

Mr. Stephen Zimmermann
 Director, Office of Internal Audit and Investigations
szimmermann@unicef.org / 917 265 4568

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Mr. Nazim Khizar
 Deputy Director, Financial Reporting and Grant Management
 Division of Financial and Administrative Management
nkhizar@unicef.org / 212 824 6014

UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2023 annual report to the Executive Board*For information*

The annual report of this independent external oversight body is presented to the Executive Board for information.

UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee focal point:

Mr. Richard Chambers
 Chair, Audit Advisory Committee
rchambers@richardchambers.com / 407 463 9389

13. Assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions*For decision*

In its decision 2022/21, the Executive Board requested an assessment of how the Executive Board, in collaboration with UNICEF and the United Nations system, executes its governance and oversight functions, with a view to ensuring that these functions are aligned with the highest international standards and best practices. The

report of the Joint Inspection Unit: review of governance and oversight of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([JIU/REP/2023/7](#)) is presented for decision.

UNICEF focal point:
Mr. Andrés Franco
Secretary of the Executive Board
afranco@unicef.org / 212 326 7663

14. UNICEF evolved enterprise risk management framework
For decision ([E/ICEF/2024/26](#))

In accordance with its decision 2024/3, the Executive Board will receive an overview of the vision and implementation strategy for an evolved enterprise risk management framework, with a timeline and a general plan for the upcoming development process. The report also presents an outline for discussion on risk governance, including options for regular engagement of the Executive Board on risk and risk management.

UNICEF focal point:
Mr. Jacob van der Blij
Chief Risk Officer
jvanderblij@unicef.org / 212 326 7183

Resource, financial and budgetary matters

15. Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025
For decision ([E/ICEF/2024/AB/L.5](#))

The report on the midterm review of the UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025 has been prepared in conjunction with the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the midterm review of the UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025 ([E/ICEF/2024/AB/L.6](#)) is available to the Executive Board for information.

UNICEF focal point:
Mr. Thomas Asare
Comptroller and Director, Division of Financial and Administrative Management
tasare@unicef.org / 212 824 6336

16. Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2023
For decision ([E/ICEF/2024/AB/L.7](#))

The report is presented annually to the Executive Board, in accordance with annex I to General Assembly resolution [48/162](#) of 20 December 1993.

UNICEF focal point:
Ms. Carla Haddad Mardini
Director, Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division
chaddadmardini@unicef.org / +41 22 909 5702

Other matters and adoption of draft decisions

17. Address by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association

The chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association addresses the Executive Board at its annual session.

UNICEF focal point:
Ms. Francoise Chandler
Chairperson, Global Staff Association
fhandler@unicef.org / 212 326 7408

18. Other matters

The Executive Board has before it the provisional list of agenda items for its second regular session of 2024 and may consider discussing any other issue under this agenda item.

19. Adoption of draft decisions

20. UNICEF Staff Team Awards and closing statements by the Executive Director of UNICEF and the President of the Executive Board

Following the announcement of the 2024 Staff Team Awards, the Executive Board will hear statements by the Executive Director of UNICEF and the President of the Executive Board.

Provisional timetable and organization of work for the 2024 annual session of the UNICEF Executive Board

11–14 June 2024¹

Tuesday 11 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	Item 1	Adoption of the provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work
		Item 2	Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF
		Item 3	Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and annual report for 2023 of the Executive Director of UNICEF UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit <i>General statements</i>
		1.15–2.45 p.m. <i>Informal consultations</i>	
	3–5 p.m.	<i>General statements (cont'd)</i>	
		Item 4	Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action
		Item 7	Update on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
		Item 8	Update on organizational culture and diversity
		5–6 p.m. <i>Informal consultations</i>	
Wednesday 12 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	Item 10	Evaluation reports and management responses Annual report for 2023 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and management response Evaluation of UNICEF approaches to advocacy, and management response Evaluation of UNICEF investments towards institutional strengthening for social and behaviour change, and management response
		Item 13	Assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions
		Item 14	UNICEF evolved enterprise risk management framework
		Item 11	Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2023, and management response
		1.15–2.45 p.m. <i>Informal consultations</i>	
		3–5 p.m.	Item 16
Item 15	Midterm review of the UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025		

¹ When consideration of an agenda item concludes ahead of the allocated time, the next item will be taken up for consideration and the timetable adjusted accordingly.

		Item 12	Internal audit and investigations UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2023 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2023 annual report to the Executive Board
	5–6 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations</i>
Thursday 13 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	Item 9	Update on implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system
		Item 6	UNICEF programme cooperation Extensions of ongoing country programmes
		Item 5	Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025
		Item 17	Address by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association
	2–6 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations</i>
Friday 14 June	10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	Item 18	Other matters
		Item 19	Adoption of draft decisions
		Item 20	UNICEF Staff Team Awards and closing statements by the Executive Director of UNICEF and the President of the Executive Board
	3–5 p.m.		