

UNICEF Executive Board
Pre-session of the 2024 annual session
28 May 2024, 10 to 11 a.m.
Virtual meeting (Zoom)

TALKING POINTS
for Mr. Andrés Franco
Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

This morning's pre-session will provide you with an overview of the procedural issues and logistics in relation to the upcoming annual session.

The pre-session will be followed by two informal briefings on the following agenda items:

(a) Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and annual report for 2023 of the Executive Director of UNICEF; and UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(b) Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025.

[Agenda and timetable]

Distinguished delegates, the annual session of the Executive Board for 2024 will be an in-person meeting held from **11 to 14 June** in Conference Room 2, Conference Building at the United Nations Headquarters.

On **Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 to 12 June**, there will be morning meetings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and afternoon meetings from 3 to 5 p.m.

On **Thursday and Friday, 13 to 14 June**, there will be morning-only meetings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The “provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work” (E/ICEF/2024/10) is available on the Executive Board [website](#).

In keeping with our usual practice, the latest agenda will be published each day in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

I am now pleased to share with you an overview of the provisional timetable.

On **Tuesday, 11 June**, the session will begin with the adoption of the “Provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work” (*item 1*).

This will be followed by the “Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF” (*item 2*).

Next, the Board will consider the “Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and annual report for 2023 of the Executive Director of UNICEF” (*item 3*). The report is accompanied by several annexes, which are available for your perusal on the Executive Board [website](#).

Also under this agenda item, there will be a statement made by the Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit (for 2024), in conjunction with the “UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit”.

After this, the floor will be opened for comments on agenda *item 3* and for general/national statements from delegations.

In the afternoon, we have allocated additional time for the continued delivery of general and national statements as well as any additional comments on agenda *item 3*.

Following, we will turn to consideration of the “Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action” (*item 4 of the agenda*).

Next, the Board will consider *item 7*, the “Update on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse”.

This will be followed by *item 8*, an “Update on organizational culture and diversity” as the final item of the day.

On the morning of Wednesday, 12 June, we will begin with evaluation reports and management responses, under *item 10* of the agenda. The Board will consider the “Annual report for 2023 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and management response”, the “Evaluation of UNICEF approaches to advocacy, and management response”, and the “Evaluation of UNICEF investments towards institutional strengthening for social and behaviour change” and the response from the UNICEF management.

The next item for consideration will be the “Assessment of how the Executive Board executes its governance and oversight functions”, prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit, *item 13* of the agenda.

Following will be consideration of *item 14*, the “UNICEF evolved enterprise risk management framework”.

The final item for consideration during the morning meeting will be *item 11*, the “Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2023, and management response”.

In the afternoon, the first item for consideration will be “Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ending 31 December 2023”, *item 16* of the agenda.

This will be followed by *item 15*, the “Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025”. The “Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the

midterm review of the UNICEF integrated budget, 2022–2025” is also available on the website for perusal by the Member States.

The final item of the day will be the “UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2023 annual report to the Executive Board” and the response from the UNICEF management (*item 12*). Also available under this agenda item will be the “UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2023 annual report to the Executive Board”.

On the morning of Thursday, 13 June, the proceedings will begin with consideration of agenda *item 9*, an “Update on implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system”.

This will be followed by *item 6*, the “Extensions of ongoing country programmes”.

Following will be the consideration of *item 5* of the agenda, the “Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025”.

The final item of the morning will be *item 17*, an “Address by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association”.

On Friday, 14 June, the first item on the agenda will be “Other matters” (*item 18*).

This will be followed by the “Adoption of draft decisions” (*item 19*).

The final item of the day – and of the session – will be the UNICEF Staff Team Awards and closing statements by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board (*item 20*).

[Documentation]

[[Slide 1 on website shown here]]

I am pleased to inform you that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Executive Board, the official documentation for the session was made available on the website on time. A few documents were published on the website after the official deadlines (of six and four weeks in advance of the session) and the Bureau was made aware of these instances in advance.

I would also like to call to your attention the *User Guide* to the Executive Board website, which is available (in English) on the home page. It includes useful information on navigating through the website, including viewing the documents organized by session.

As per the practice, statements that are provided to the Office of the Secretary by delegations will be posted on the Executive Board website and published in the *Journal of the United Nations* after delivery.

[Informal consultations on draft decisions]

The compilation of draft decisions was circulated to Executive Board members and observers on **Tuesday, 14 May**, which was four weeks in advance of the session.

To facilitate the smooth finalization of the negotiation process by 13 June 2024, delegations were kindly reminded to share language proposals for the draft decisions with the respective facilitators by close of business on **5 June**.

The updated compilation of draft decisions will be circulated via email by close of business on **6 June**.

Please note the schedule for the informal consultations on the draft decisions – all of which will be held in person – as follows:

- On **Monday, 10 June**, the first informal consultations on draft decisions will be held in **Conference Room B**, Conference Building, United Nations Secretariat, from **2 to 6 p.m.**

The informal consultations scheduled during the days of the session will be as follows:

- **Tuesday, 11 June**: from **1.15 to 2.45 p.m. in Conference Room 2**, Conference Building, United Nations Secretariat.

- **Wednesday, 12 June:** from **1:15 to 2:45 p.m. in Conference Room 2**, Conference Building, United Nations Secretariat.
- The venue for the informal consultations that have been scheduled from 5 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 11 June and Wednesday, 12 June, will be communicated in due course.
- **On Thursday, 13 June:** the final informal consultations will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. **in Conference Room 2**, Conference Building, United Nations Secretariat.

[[Slide 2 on statements/credentials shown here]]

[Credentials and meeting registration]

Distinguished Delegates,

Members of the Executive Board, observers and representatives of organizations attending the session are kindly requested to complete the online [Credentials Accreditation Form](#) **as soon as possible**, and no later than **5 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time, EDT) on Friday, 7 June**.

[Statements]

Delegations presenting statements are kindly encouraged to submit **electronic** versions of their statements ahead of time to my colleague Mr. Nogel S. Viyar (nsviyar@unicef.org).

When doing so, please indicate in the subject line of your email the **date of the meeting**, and the **title** and **number** of the **agenda item**.

Statements will remain embargoed until delivery and will then be posted on the Executive Board website and published in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

Delegates are kindly requested to limit their statements to **three (3) minutes for individual delegations** speaking in their national capacity; **and five (5) minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of United Nations regional groups**, or for **joint statements of two or more Member States**.

As usual, delegations are encouraged to deliver their remarks within the time limits, and to submit the longer version for posting on the Executive Board website.

Microphones will start blinking to alert speakers *one minute* before the end of their allotted time, and speakers will be muted within *one minute* after their time limit has ended.

This muting of microphones will apply to both the Member States as well as the briefers from UNICEF.

[Indicative list of speakers]

Delegations are gently reminded to send advance requests to take the floor *by 11.59 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, 7 June*, to my colleague Ms. Judith Yemane (jyemane@unicef.org).

Kindly include a clear indication in the email subject line of the meeting date and the title and number of the agenda item.

Requests received by the deadline will be included in the indicative list of speakers, which will be posted *at noon on Monday, 10 June* on the Executive Board website.

Requests received after the deadline will be considered as requests to speak from the floor.

The indicative list will reflect the order by which delegations presenting statements during the general debate, and on specific agenda items, will be called upon by the Chair.

Please be reminded that the Chair will use the following priority order in according the right to speak:

- (a) First, members of the **Bureau** of the UNICEF Executive Board who may wish to take the floor – organized by rank, followed by;

- (b) Representatives of the **regional groups** of the United Nations speaking on behalf of their groups – organized by rank, followed by;
- (c) Permanent Missions to the United Nations that had sent in **advance and on-time written requests** to take the floor – with priority given to members of the Executive Board, followed by observers; and
- (d) **Advance written requests received after the deadline**, followed by **requests received from the floor** through the electronic system, on a first come, first served basis.

Delegations speaking on behalf of regional groups, and those delivering joint statements of two or more Member States, are kindly asked to inform the secretariat in advance that they will do so.

Your kind collaboration is key for the order of speakers to work effectively.

We look forward to a successful Executive Board Session!

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
