

UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD
Orientation Session for the 2026 Executive Board Members
Thursday, 15 January 2026, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Henry Labouisse Hall
at UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York

DRAFT AGENDA
(12 January 2026)

- 8.30 –9 a.m. **Breakfast**
Henry Labouisse Hall
- 9 –9.30 a.m. **Opening**
President of the Executive Board in 2026 (3 mins.)
Video: UNICEF Executive Board Year in Review 2025 (3 mins.)
- 2025 Stocktaking and setting the stage for 2026 (panel discussion)**
Ms. Catherine Russell, Executive Director
H.E. Mr. Jonibek Hikmat, Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations,
President of the Executive Board in 2025
- 9.30 – 11.15 a.m. **The Challenges of Silent Emergency Response (1.30 hours)**
- Executive Board members will be invited to connect with UNICEF operations in Haiti and Afghanistan to hear first-hand from emergency teams currently responding to two silent crises. This live connection will provide the opportunity to be exposed to and learn about how UNICEF formulates cross-sectoral responses for children in an emergency context.
- UNICEF senior leaders will join to offer their reflections during the live dialogue with teams on the ground.
- Global Programme Division (Mr. George Laryea-Adjei, Director)
Office of Emergency Programmes (Ms. Lucia Elmi, Director)
Office of Strategy and Evidence-Innocenti (Mr. Bo Viktor Nylund, Director a.i.)
Supply Division (Ms. Leila Pakkala, Director)
- Discussion*
- 11.15 –11.30 a.m. **Coffee break**
- 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. **The Power Behind the Promise – a UNICEF Virtual Experience (1 hour)**
With a focus on the criticality of Regular Resources, this virtual experience will take Executive Board members on a journey across UNICEF operations including Cambodia, Ethiopia and Guatemala.
- Debriefing and reflections with UNICEF senior leaders on funding and resource mobilization strategies and distribution**
- Public Partnerships Division (Ms. Mandeep O’Brien, Director)
Division of Private Fundraising and Partnerships (Mr. Nicolas Pron, Deputy Director)
Division of Financial and Administrative Management (Ms. Diane Kepler, Director)
- Discussion*
- 12.30 –12.45 p.m. **Pick up lunch**

- 12.45 – 1.30 p.m. **Conversation on the UNICEF Executive Board** (Ways of working; 2026 programme of work; available resources; role of the Bureau and of Executive Board members; use of artificial intelligence; field visits)
- Mr. Andrés Franco, Director, Secretary of the Executive Board
Ms. Stephanie Kunkel, Deputy Secretary of the Executive Board
- 1.30 – 1.45 p.m. **Key features of UNICEF work on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment** (7 mins)
- Mr. Bo Viktor Nylund, Director a.i., Office of Strategy and Evidence-Innocenti
- Discussion*
- 1.45 – 2.30 p.m. **Discussion with the independent offices**
- Key features of the UNICEF Evaluation Office** (7 mins.)
- Mr. Robert McCouch, Director of Evaluation
- Key features of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations** (7 mins.)
- Mr. Stephen Zimmermann, Director, Office of Internal Audit and Investigations
- Key features of the Ethics Office** (7 mins.)
- Mr. El Cid Butuyan, Director, Ethics Office
- 2.30 p.m. **Closing**
- Mr. Andrés Franco, Director, Secretary of the Executive Board