

UNICEF Executive Board

Pre-session of the 2026 annual session

1 June 2026, 10 to 11 a.m. (Eastern Daylight Time)

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 and logistical issues in relation to the upcoming UNICEF Executive Board's **annual session of 2026**.

These talking points have been made available on the UNICEF Executive Board website in all official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) in advance of the pre-session.

As you know, we have already successfully concluded several informal briefings in advance of the annual session.

On 5 May, there were four informal briefings: on the UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee; UNICEF total net assets and projections; UNICEF organizational change processes; and the Annual report of the risk profile of UNICEF.

On 18 May, an additional four informal briefings were held: on UNICEF implementation of the UN80 Initiative; the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2025 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response; the Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2025, and management response; and the Annual report for 2025 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and management response.

Finally, on 22 May, four informal briefings were held: on the Annual report for 2025 of the Executive Director of UNICEF; the Update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system; the Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2025; and the Update on organizational culture and diversity.

[Agenda and timetable]

Distinguished delegates, the **2026 annual session** of the UNICEF Executive Board will be held from **16 to 19 June** in **Conference Room 1**, Conference Building, at the United Nations Headquarters.

The “provisional annotated agenda, timetable and organization of work” (E/ICEF/2026/9) is available on the Executive Board [website](#). It indicates that the meetings could end by the morning of Friday, 19 June. The provisional timeline is as follows:

On **Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 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, 18 and Friday, 19 June** there will be **morning-only meetings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

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

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

On ***Tuesday, 16 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*).

Following will be the presentation of *item 3*, the “Annual report for 2025 of the Executive Director of UNICEF”, which will include an “Update of the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029. The “UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit” will also be considered under this agenda item and the Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit will address the Executive Board.

After this, the floor will be opened for general/national statements from delegations.

In the afternoon, the proceedings will begin with opening the floor for the continued presentation of general/national statements from delegations.

This will be followed by *item 4* of the agenda, the “Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action”.

Next will be an “Update on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse”, *item 7* of the agenda.

The final item of the afternoon will be “UNICEF programme cooperation: Extensions of ongoing country programmes”, *item 6* of the agenda.

On Wednesday, 17 June, the morning meetings will begin with *item 13*, the “UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2025 annual report to the Executive Board and management response”, which will be accompanied by the “UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2025 annual report to the Executive Board.” A representative of the Audit Advisory Committee will share remarks on the Committee’s report.

Next on the agenda will be the “Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2025, and management response”, *item 12* of the agenda. This will be followed by *item 11*, the “Annual report for 2025 on the evaluation function in UNICEF and management response”. Following, also under *item 11*, the Board will consider the “Impact evaluation of the early childhood cash transfer of the Juntos programme on health services coverage and prevalence of

stunting and anaemia in Peru” and the “UNICEF summary of the response from the Government of Peru to the impact evaluation”. A representative of the Government of Peru will provide the response to the evaluation. And a beneficiary of the programme will address the Board.

On Wednesday afternoon, the first item on the agenda will be an “Update on the implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system”, *item 9* of the agenda.

This will be followed by *item 10*, an “Update on the UN80 Initiative and implementation by UNICEF”.

Next will be *item 8* of the agenda, an “Update on organizational culture and diversity”. As part of this agenda item, the Ombudsman for United Nations Funds and Programmes will present the office’s annual report for 2025.

The final item of the day will be the “Annual report on the risk profile of UNICEF” (*item 14*).

On Thursday, 18 June, the morning-only proceedings will begin with *item 15* of the agenda, “Progress on the consideration of the review of governance and oversight of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF and UN-Women by the Joint Inspection Unit”.

This will be followed by *item 16*, the “Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2025”.

Next, the Board will consider the “Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025”, *item 5* of the agenda.

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

On Friday, 19 June, the morning-only meetings will begin with “Other matters”, *item 18* of the agenda, which will include the provisional list of agenda items for the second regular session of 2026.

Following will be the “Adoption of draft decisions”, *item 19*.

The session will conclude with *item 20*, the presentation of the “UNICEF Staff Team Awards and closing statements by the Executive Director of UNICEF and the President of the Executive Board”.

[Documentation]

Distinguished delegates, I am pleased to inform you that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Executive Board, official

documentation for the session was made available on the website six and four weeks in advance of the session.

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

[Informal consultations on draft decisions]

The compilation of draft decisions was circulated to Executive Board members and observers on **19 May 2026**.

In line with the strong encouragement reiterated by the Board in its decision 2019/9 for Member States to provide their comments on draft decisions prior to the start of the session, **please send language proposals for the draft decisions to the overall coordinator and the respective facilitators by Wednesday, 10 June 2026**.

The updated compilation of draft decisions will be circulated via email by close of business on **11 June 2026**.

In addition, please note that the focal point for the overall coordination of the draft decisions, Ms. Grete Vahter (Estonia), in

consultation with the regional groups, is strongly encouraging that new language proposals be submitted only until **3 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 June 2026**, so that delegations have sufficient time to consult their capitals prior to the conclusion of the negotiation process and the adoption of the draft decisions.

Please note the schedule for the informal consultations on the draft decisions as follows:

- **Monday, 15 June:** *in-person* pre-session informal consultations in Labouisse Hall, UNICEF House, **from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and from **2 to 6 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, 16 June:** *in-person*, **from 1.15 to 2.45 p.m.** and **from 5 to 6 p.m.**, Conference Room 1, Conference Building, United Nations Secretariat.
- **Wednesday, 17 June:** *in-person*, **from 1.15 to 2.45 p.m.** and from **5 to 6 p.m.**, Conference Room 1, Conference Building, United Nations Secretariat.
- **Thursday, 18 June:** *in-person*, **from 2 to 6 p.m.**, Conference Room 1, Conference Building, United Nations Secretariat.

The Maurice Pate Conference Room on the 13th floor at UNICEF House, has been reserved, starting at 6 p.m., on 16, 17 and 18 June, should the informal consultations on the draft decisions continue beyond 6 p.m. during any of those days.

[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 *Thursday, 11 June 2026*. The form is also linked in the information note, which is available on the annual session page of the Executive Board website.

[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**. The **title of the agenda item** should also be included in the heading of the statement.

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 (as applicable) 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 after their time has ended**, at either the end of three (3) minutes, or the end of five (5) minutes.

The time limits, as well as muting the microphones of speakers, will be applied throughout the session.

[Indicative list of speakers]

Delegations are gently reminded to send advance requests to take the floor *by 11.59 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, 12 June 2026, via the online [Speaker Request Form](#)*, which is also linked in the information note on the Executive Board website.

Should you encounter any technical issues in completing the form, kindly contact my colleague Ms. Tian Lu (tilu@unicef.org), keeping the OSEB mailbox, oseb@unicef.org, in copy.

When completing the form, kindly ensure that you include the **meeting date** and the **number and title of the agenda item**, and – as possible – the **name of the delegate(s)** who will deliver the statement(s), and their **functional title(s)**.

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

For the 2026 annual session, the Executive Board will utilize an online live List of Speakers to provide real-time updates. The list can be accessed via the Executive Board website or by scanning the QR code that will be posted on the walls of Conference Room 1. The list will be available starting on Monday, 15 June 2026, and will be updated continuously throughout the session.

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) *Second*, representatives of the **Regional Groups of the United Nations** speaking on behalf of their groups, and/or for **joint statements** (organized by rank), followed by;
- (c) *Third*, **Permanent Missions to the United Nations** that have sent **written requests in advance and on-time** to take the floor at a specific time (organized by rank, with priority given to members of the Executive Board, followed by observers, organized by rank);

- (d) *Fourth and last, **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 in so that the order of speakers can work effectively.

We look forward to a successful Executive Board session!

Thank you, Mr. Chair.