

UNICEF Executive Board
Second Regular Session 2026
Item 9 – Update on the oversight functions

01 September 2026, New York

– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Mr./Ms. President of the Executive Board,
Madam Executive Director,
Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and my own country Germany.

We thank UNICEF for the timely preparation of the proposal outlining the modalities for consultation with the Executive Board with respect to the appointment, renewal, non-renewal and termination of the heads of the independent oversight functions, as well as for the revision of the Charter of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations. We consider both to be important steps towards further clarifying and strengthening the Executive Board's oversight role. In particular, we appreciate the greater procedural clarity and predictability regarding when and how the Executive Board is to be involved, as well as the efforts to provide a more structured framework for consultation.

We believe that clear and transparent consultation arrangements are important to ensure that the respective roles and responsibilities of the Executive Board and management are well understood. Thereby they support the independence and effectiveness of the oversight functions.

We would also like to reiterate our appreciation to UNICEF for the work put into the revised preliminary proposals on consultation modalities. We appreciate that our feedback provided during their development has been taken into account in the final version. In particular, we welcome the strengthened provisions for the involvement of the full Executive Board, the clearer minimum parameters for consultation, including opportunities for written observations, and the clarification of how feedback from Board members is to be addressed. We believe

these additions further strengthen the transparency and predictability of the consultation process, while preserving the decision-making authority of the Executive Director.

In light of UNICEF's development of an organization-specific Ethics Charter, we encourage UNICEF to include, from the outset, provisions on consultation with the Executive Board regarding the appointment, renewal, non-renewal and termination of the Head of the Ethics Office. This would help ensure consistency across the frameworks governing the three independent oversight functions.

With the development of these consultation modalities, UNICEF has also taken an important step towards advancing the implementation of the JIU recommendations on the governance and oversight of Executive Boards. These call for greater clarity regarding the role of the Executive Boards in such processes. We see UNICEF's consultation modalities as a useful basis that could either be adopted or adapted by the JIU Joint Working Group, with a view to promoting a coherent approach across the Executive Boards concerned.

I thank you.