



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2021

Original: English

For decision

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Annual session 2021

1–4 June 2021

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/2021/9)

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 2020. The Board will adopt the agenda for the session, making any amendments it considers necessary.

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.

Programme and policy matters

3. Annual report for 2020 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

For decision (E/ICEF/2021/10)

The report covers 2020, the third year of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. It takes stock of progress towards the aims of the Strategic Plan, presenting and analysing progress against key indicators. The report includes analysis of key programmatic and organizational adaptations made in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Included with the report are the following documents: (a) report on the implementation of the integrated results and resources framework of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021; (b) report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; (c) “Working together to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: joint annex on the implementation of the common chapter of the Strategic Plans, 2018–2021 of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women”; and (d) a data companion and scorecard. In accordance with Executive Board decision 2020/13, the report will provide actual financial information, following the format of the integrated resource plan, and assess performance against the integrated budget; it will also inform the Executive Board of the number of senior-level positions that were established on an as-needed basis in 2020.

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/2021/11)

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 2020.

UNICEF focal point:

Ms. Diane Kepler

Deputy Director, Strategic Resource Management

Division of Financial and Administrative Management

dkepler@unicef.org / 212-824-6386

4. UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, draft for review

For information ([E/ICEF/2021/12](#) and [E/ICEF/2021/12/Add.1](#))

The draft Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and draft results framework are presented to the Executive Board for discussion. A final draft of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Executive Board for approval at its second regular session of 2021.

UNICEF focal point:

Ms. Vidhya Ganesh

Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring

vganesh@unicef.org / 212-824-6247

5. Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action

For decision ([E/ICEF/2021/13](#))

The report presents an overview of the ways in which UNICEF responded to humanitarian crises in 2020, both globally and at the country level. It outlines the key challenges met and lessons learned in humanitarian action, and how the organization plans to act on these lessons.

UNICEF focal point:

Mr. Manuel Fontaine

Director, Office of Emergency Programmes

mfontaine@unicef.org / 212-326-7163

6. Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021

For information ([E/ICEF/2021/15](#))

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 also includes information on the organization's efforts to strengthen its gender-related expertise at the country level, in line with Executive Board decision 2020/12. The report is accompanied by a data companion and scorecard.

UNICEF focal point:

Ms. Lauren Rumble

Principal Adviser, Gender Equality, Programme Division

lrumble@unicef.org / 212-326-7690

7. UNICEF programme cooperation

(a) Country programme documents

For decision

The country programme document listed below is presented to the Executive Board for approval on a no-objection basis, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1. The country programme document and costed evaluation plan are available on the UNICEF Executive Board website, as is a link to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework on the United Nations Sustainable Development Group website.

Latin America and Caribbean

Argentina ([E/ICEF/2021/P/L.15](#))

UNICEF focal point:

Ms. Vidhya Ganesh

Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring

vganesh@unicef.org / 212-824-6247

(b) Extensions of ongoing country programmes*For decision (E/ICEF/2021/P/L.14)*

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2009/11, the Executive Board will be (i) informed of the three-month extension of the country programme for Armenia, following a two-month extension and a four-month extension; and the six-month extension of the country programme for Malaysia, following a two-month extension and a four-month extension; and (ii) requested to approve the three-month extension of the country programme for Madagascar, following a one-year extension and a six-month extension; and the eight-month extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following two consecutive one-year extensions, a nine-month extension, a three-month extension, a two-month extension and a four-month extension.

UNICEF focal point:

Ms. Vidhya Ganesh

Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring

vganesh@unicef.org / 212-824-6247**Evaluation, audit and oversight matters****8. Evaluation reports and management responses****Annual report for 2020 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and management response***For decision (E/ICEF/2021/18, E/ICEF/2021/19)*

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 provides information on global developments in evaluation and the current state of the evaluation function in UNICEF. It provides information on how the evaluation function in UNICEF adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and contributed to real-time learning on the UNICEF response to the pandemic at the country level and to rapid assessments and evidence synthesis in key programmatic areas. 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. Fabio Sabatini

Chief, Evaluation Office

fsabatini@unicef.org / 917-265-4620

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Ms. Vidhya Ganesh

Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring

vganesh@unicef.org / 212-824-6247**Global evaluation of UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene programming in protracted crises, 2014–2019, and management response***For decision (E/ICEF/2021/20, E/ICEF/2021/21)*

The evaluation explored the extent to which UNICEF met corporate commitments for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming in protracted crises from 2014 to 2019, and whether tools and approaches designed largely for rapid-onset emergencies have been effective in protracted crises. The evaluation also looked at the experience of UNICEF in linking humanitarian and development programming in the area of WASH in protracted crises, and how well placed the organization is to

adapt its work to achieve its ambitions in this area. The report is accompanied by a management response.

UNICEF focal point for the evaluation report:

Mr. Fabio Sabatini
Chief, Evaluation Office
fsabatini@unicef.org / 917-265-4620

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor
Associate Director, WASH, Programme Division
kanaylor@unicef.org / 212-824-6769

9. Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2020, and management response

For decision (E/ICEF/2021/16; E/ICEF/2021/17)

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 / 917-893-2293

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Ms. Gillian Mellsoy
Director, a.i., Division of Human Resources
gmellsoy@unicef.org / 212-326-7012

10. Internal audit and investigations

UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2020 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response

For decision (E/ICEF/2021/AB/L.3, E/ICEF/2021/AB/L.3/Add.1, E/ICEF/2021/AB/L.4, E/ICEF/2021/AB/L.5)

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 2020. The report is accompanied by an addendum detailing the investigations closed in 2020, as well as a management response. Also presented in conjunction with the report is the revised Charter of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations.

UNICEF focal point for the report:

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

UNICEF focal point for the management response:

Ms. Diane Kepler
Deputy Director, Strategic Resource Management
Division of Financial and Administrative Management
dkepler@unicef.org / 212-824-6386

UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2020 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. Kamlesh Vikamsey
 Chair, Audit Advisory Committee
kamlesh@kkcellp.in / +91-93232 62551

11. Update on the implementation of the recommendations made in the independent panel review of the UNICEF response to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and the report of the Independent Task Force on Workplace Gender-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Harassment and Abuse of Authority

For information (E/ICEF/2021/14)

The update will address progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the reports as well as other actions being taken by UNICEF to improve its organizational culture and address sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. The Executive Board will also be provided with an update on the work of the internal Task Team on Anti-Racism and Discrimination, as requested in its decision 2020/21.

UNICEF focal points:
 Ms. Geetanjali Narayan
 Principal Adviser, Organizational Culture
gnarayan@unicef.org / 212-326-7634

Mr. Miles Hastie
 Senior Adviser, Child Safeguarding
mhastie@unicef.org / 212-824-6269

Resource, financial and budgetary matters

12. Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations 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.

UNICEF focal point:
 Ms. June Kunugi
 Director, Public Partnerships Division
jkunugi@unicef.org / 917-640-1795

13. Update on the World Bank instrument to facilitate sustained investment in private sector fundraising

For information (UNICEF/2021/EB/8)

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2021/5, the update provides information on the results of consultations with the countries that have received financing from the financial instrument and other relevant actors in the United Nations system with respect to the financial instrument that UNICEF is developing with the World Bank. It provides an updated and comprehensive risk management matrix and information

on the opinion of the Office of Legal Affairs regarding the instrument, as well as information on principal amount, interest costs and other associated costs, along with a written assessment of the need to update the UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules.

UNICEF focal point:

Mr. Thomas Asare

Comptroller and Director, Division of Financial and Administrative Management

tasare@unicef.org / 212-824-6336

Other matters and adoption of draft decisions

14. 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:

Mr. Noma Owens-Ibie

Chairperson, Global Staff Association

nowensibie@unicef.org / 212-824-6135

15. Other matters

The Executive Board has before it the provisional list of agenda items for its second regular session of 2021 and may consider discussing any other issue under this agenda item.

16. Adoption of draft decisions

17. 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 2021 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 2021 annual session of the UNICEF Executive Board¹

Tuesday 1 June	a.m. 10:00– 12:00	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	Annual report for 2020 of the Executive Director of UNICEF UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit <i>General statements</i>
	p.m. 12:30– 2:45		<i>Informal consultations</i>
	p.m. 3:00– 5:00	Item 8	<i>General statements (cont'd)</i> Evaluation reports and management responses Annual report for 2020 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and management response Global evaluation of UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene programming in protracted crises, 2014–2019, and management response
	p.m. 5:00– 6:00		<i>Informal consultations</i>
Wednesday 2 June	a.m. 10:00– 12:00		Special focus session on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative
		Item 5	Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action
		Item 12	Update on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
	p.m. 12:30– 2:45		<i>Informal consultations</i>
	p.m. 3:00– 5:00	Item 9	Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2020, and management response
		Item 10	Internal Audit and Investigations UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2020 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2020 annual report to the Executive Board
	p.m. 5:00– 6:00		<i>Informal consultations</i>

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.

Thursday 3 June	a.m. 10:00– 12:00	Item 7	UNICEF programme cooperation (a) Country programme documents (b) Extensions of ongoing country programmes
		Item 13	Update on the World Bank instrument to facilitate sustained investment in private sector fundraising
	p.m. 12:30– 6:00		<i>Informal consultations</i>
Friday 4 June	a.m. 10:00– 12:00	Item 4	UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, draft for review
		Item 6	Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021
	p.m. 12:30– 2:45		<i>Informal consultations</i>
	p.m. 3:00– 5:00	Item 11	Update on the implementation of the recommendations made in the independent panel review of the UNICEF response to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and the report of the Independent Task Force on Workplace Gender-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Harassment and Abuse of Authority
		Item 14	Address by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association
		Item 15	Other matters
		Item 16	Adoption of draft decisions
		Item 17	UNICEF Staff Team Awards and closing statements by the Executive Director of UNICEF and the President of the Executive Board