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For decision

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Annual session 2020

29 June–2 July 2020

Agenda item 3

Draft decision submitted to the Executive Board

Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and annual report for 2019 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and annual report for 2019 of the Executive Director of UNICEF, as well as the proposed revised results framework for the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021; the report on the implementation of the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021; the report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; the report on the implementation of the common chapter of the Strategic Plans, 2018–2021 of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); lessons learned; and the data companion and scorecard, and decides to transmit the reports to the Economic and Social Council, along with a summary of the comments and guidance of the Executive Board;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the UNICEF response to COVID-19 in line with United Nations system-wide efforts and requests UNICEF to provide an update on its work and contribution to the system-wide effort at the global, regional and country levels to address the impact of the pandemic on children and on its operations and programmatic activities, beginning with the second regular session of 2020;

3. *Calls* for UNICEF to ensure the delivery of the objectives of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, and to continue to work as part of a coordinated international response, with a focus on supporting programme countries to build back better while mainstreaming environmentally sustainable policies in its operational activities, leaving no one behind;



4. *Takes note* of the results achieved at mid-point, and requests UNICEF to accelerate efforts, while recognizing that the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 during its second half is unknown;

5. *Notes* the priority of UNICEF to accelerate the mainstreaming of action on climate change, and requests UNICEF to report to the Executive Board in the annual report of the Executive Director on its operational and programming targets, corresponding efforts and results, including through its environmental and social safeguards, to make its programmes and operations consistent with climate resilience and low-carbon development as outlined in the revised results framework for the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the clear and active commitment of UNICEF to building a positive work culture in response to the report of the Independent Task Force on Workplace Gender-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Harassment and Abuse of Authority and the addition of the fifth “enabler” on organizational culture to the Strategic Plan to institutionalize accountability;

7. *Urges* UNICEF to improve progress towards the partially met outputs of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, including in the areas of education, HIV/AIDS and child poverty, and requests UNICEF to analyse and assess the targets set for the outputs of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, especially those which have consistently been under- and over-achieved, and present the findings to the Executive Board in the context of consultation on the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, including by factoring in the challenges of the existing strategies to reflect new and revised strategies for achieving its outputs;

8. *Requests* UNICEF to take into account the lessons learned from the first two years of implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, as well as from its previous strategic plans;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the course of action proposed in the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, and requests UNICEF to start preparations early for the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, in full consultation with the Executive Board, taking into account the lessons learned from the midterm review, the joint report on the evaluability assessment of the common chapter, dated 30 March 2020, and the outcome of the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review for development of the United Nations system, and also requests UNICEF to ensure a participatory and timely process for the development of the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, with sufficient time for all Member States to consult and to provide feedback on draft versions of the Strategic Plan, and to provide an indicative timetable at the second regular session of 2020;

10. *Welcomes* UNICEF progress towards achieving the outputs of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, and encourages UNICEF to further accelerate progress on the agreed commitments and mandates under the United Nations development system reform, including the funding compact and General Assembly resolutions on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in the remaining period of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021;

11. *Takes note with appreciation* of the UNICEF commitment to United Nations development system reform and encourages UNICEF to continue to work closely with United Nations entities, under the leadership of resident coordinators and within United Nations country teams, as well as with relevant stakeholders and other development partners, to support country efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework;

12. *Requests* UNICEF to accelerate its efforts to implement the common chapter, together with UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women, including by developing the necessary tracking framework within the respective integrated results and resources frameworks of their current strategic plans, following the recommendations of the joint report on the evaluability assessment of the common chapter, dated 30 March 2020, and in the context of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, as laid out in General Assembly resolution 72/279, and also requests UNICEF to present a joint update on progress to the Executive Board at the second regular session of 2020;

13. *Notes* that UNICEF needs to scale up the implementation of its funding compact commitments, many of which are set for 2021, and requests UNICEF to continue the practice of providing a written update and informal briefing in the context of the structured funding dialogues, prior to the second regular session of 2020, on how the outcomes of the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 relate to the effective implementation of the funding compact in the remaining period of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021.
