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For decision

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

First regular session 2022

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Agenda item 9

Draft decision submitted to the Executive Board

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

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the update provided by UNICEF 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 (E/ICEF/2022/6), as well as of the recommendations of the Task Team on Anti-Racism and Discrimination, and notes with appreciation the increasing inter-agency cooperation;
2. *Takes note with appreciation* that the implementation of the recommendations from the Task Team on Anti-Racism and Discrimination will be a top priority for UNICEF in 2022 and requests the management to put in place a mechanism to regularly monitor and measure the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Team;
3. *Notes* progress made and the need for continued effort and focus on preventing and taking immediate action to respond to sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment, including ensuring that policies and procedures deliver impact and are resourced sufficiently, and that proposed actions are implemented at the country, regional and global levels;
4. *Requests* UNICEF to continue to take action to ensure a victim-/survivor-centred, system-wide and coherent approach to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, while leveraging its mandate, and to



address the increased risks during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response and recovery;

5. *Notes* progress made and the need for continued effort and focus on preventing and taking immediate action to respond to prohibited conduct, and also requests UNICEF to maintain its progress on building a more values-based organizational culture and expanding diversity, equity and inclusion efforts;

6. *Requests* UNICEF to provide an update to the Executive Board on how the organization is preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse in its policies, procedures and operations at headquarters, regional and country levels, at the annual session of 2023, and asks that this includes analysis of available data and implementation of system-wide initiatives, including the Implementing Partners Protocol and use of the Implementing Partner Capacity Assessment and ClearCheck;

7. *Also requests* UNICEF to provide an update to the Executive Board on how the organization is improving organizational culture and on its actions to prevent and respond to all forms of discrimination, including racism and racial discrimination, and sexual harassment, in its policies, procedures and programmes at headquarters, regional and country levels, at the annual session of 2023;

8. *Further requests* UNICEF to continue taking a long-term approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, in line with the Strategic Plan;

9. *Urges* UNICEF to ensure that leadership in country are aware of their responsibilities for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment; that in all country offices there are respective staff with responsibilities for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment who participate in inter-agency coordination mechanisms as appropriate; and that staff are provided with appropriate role-specific training as well as regular mandatory training to support culture change;

10. *Requests* UNICEF to monitor the impact of efforts for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment at the country level, identify and share best practices and address collective barriers, and calls on UNICEF to address the significant gap between the overall strategies on sexual exploitation and abuse and their impact on the ground;

11. *Also requests* timely and thorough victim-/survivor-centred-investigations with prompt reporting to Member States and sufficient resources dedicated to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment investigations;

12. *Commends* UNICEF for annual submission to the Secretary-General of action plans on preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse that are implemented at headquarters, regional and country levels, and requests UNICEF to share headquarters-level action plans with the Executive Board annually;

13. *Requests* an update from UNICEF, at the 2023 first regular session of the Executive Board, on metrics used to measure progress on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and how integrated results and resources framework indicators on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment have aligned with relevant indicators of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and those of other United Nations development system agencies and ensure that data obtained, including on allegations, using these metrics and indicators and subsequent analysis, systematically inform strategies, policies and procedures.