United Nations E/ICEF/2025/26



Economic and Social Council

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United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Compendium of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session of 2025

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2025/8

Annual report for 2024 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the annual report for 2024 of the Executive Director of UNICEF, as well as the report on the implementation of the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025; the report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; the description of independent oversight functions/bodies in UNICEF; and the data companion and scorecard;
- 2. Decides to transmit the above-mentioned reports to the Economic and Social Council, along with a summary of the comments and guidance of the Executive Board;
- 3. *Takes note* of the UNICEF report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, including the management responses to the 15 recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit intended for consideration by the Executive Board;
- 4. Requests UNICEF to ensure that organizational change processes (inter alia, the Headquarters Efficiencies Initiative, the Future Focus Initiative and the Business Model Review) are based on solid business cases, risk assessments and pilots, and to proactively consult the Global Staff Association on the organizational change processes;
- 5. Also requests UNICEF to provide periodic and timely informal briefings to the Executive Board on the organizational change processes that are being implemented, with the first briefing to be held in July 2025 at the latest.

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2025/9

Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action

The Executive Board

Takes note of the annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action (E/ICEF/2025/19).

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2025/10

Extensions of ongoing country programmes

The Executive Board

Takes note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Guatemala and South Sudan, which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in the table of document E/ICEF/2025/P/L.8.

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2025/11

Update on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

The Executive Board

- 1. Welcomes the update provided by UNICEF on progress made on preventing and protecting against sexual exploitation and abuse within the broader risk management and safeguarding framework;
- 2. *Urges* UNICEF to continue its efforts to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse;
- 3. Requests UNICEF, with firm commitment and support from leadership, to continue to strengthen efforts to ensure a victim/survivor-centred, system-wide and coherent approach to the prevention of, and response to, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;
- 4. Also requests UNICEF to continue to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of prevention, protection and response through inter-agency and system-wide collaboration, including through conducting joint assessments and capacity-building of implementing partners and joint community engagement;
- 5. Further requests UNICEF to contribute to and include in its reporting a brief collective summary outlining the joint progress and shared challenges of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;
- 6. Encourages UNICEF management to ensure dedicated, adequate and sustainable staffing, expertise and funding to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;
- 7. Recalls paragraphs 8 and 9 of its decision 2023/10, on the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme, welcomes the steps taken by UNICEF to pilot the Scheme, and requests the organization to continue to report on results and lessons learned, within existing reporting, and contribute to ongoing efforts by the United Nations Secretariat to explore whether the Scheme and the United Nations ClearCheck database can serve as complements to each other.

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2025/12

Update on organizational culture and diversity

The Executive Board

Takes note of the update provided by UNICEF on organizational culture and diversity (E/ICEF/2025/17).

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2025/13

Update on implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system

The Executive Board

- 1. *Welcomes* the update provided by UNICEF on implementation efforts on the repositioning of the United Nations development system;
- 2. Also welcomes the progress of UNICEF in implementing the United Nations development system reform checklist, which is included as an annex to the update, and requests that remaining areas of uneven progress be addressed;
- 3. *Recalls* its decision 2024/11 and reaffirms its strong commitment to the United Nations development system reform;
- 4. Requests UNICEF to contribute to the United Nations country team configuration exercises and the implementation of their outcomes, to ensure that its presence at the country level is tailored to meet the specific challenges, priorities and needs of programme countries;
- 5. Also requests UNICEF to intensify its efforts to contribute to system-wide and inter-agency efficiencies, including through expanding the use of global shared services, common back offices and common premises, prioritizing the most cost-effective and resource-efficient efforts;
- 6. Further requests UNICEF to continue to pay in full its cost-sharing contributions in support of the resident coordinator system;
- 7. Recalls its decisions 2022/16, 2023/15 and 2024/11, and requests UNICEF to take further steps to ensure that its country programme documents are derived from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, including (a) sharing with the Executive Board the written confirmation from resident coordinators of alignment of the draft country programme documents and (b) informing the resident coordinators in a timely manner of new programmes and financial agreements signed to implement the country programme documents, in line with the Management and Accountability Framework;
- 8. Requests UNICEF to continue to work with other United Nations entities to increase joint programming with relevant targets and indicators in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029, and at the country level, in line with its mandate and implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
- 9. Also requests UNICEF to adhere to all elements of the Management and Accountability Framework and to constructively engage in the review of the Framework.

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2025/14

Annual report for 2024 on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and management response

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2024 on the evaluation function in UNICEF (E/ICEF/2025/23) and its management response (E/ICEF/2025/24);

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- 2. Takes note with appreciation of the strong integration of the role of the evaluation function in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029: draft for review, including in advancing accountability, learning and change processes;
- 3. Welcomes the intention of UNICEF to further strengthen the role of the evaluation function within UNICEF governance, risk management and oversight, and encourages continued efforts to foster an evaluation culture across the organization, with support and commitment from leadership;
- 4. *Requests* the UNICEF Evaluation Office to present its costed annual workplans to the Executive Board at the first regular session starting in 2026;
- 5. Reiterates the importance of the full independence of the evaluation function and its direct access to the Executive Board, and encourages UNICEF management to ensure the adequate and sustainable funding and staffing of the function.

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2025/15

Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2024, and management response

The Executive Board

- 1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2024 (E/ICEF/2025/21) and its management response (E/ICEF/2025/22);
- 2. Welcomes the continued progress made by the Ethics Office in promoting and strengthening the ethical culture of UNICEF;
- 3. Reiterates the importance of the full independence of the Ethics Office and its direct access to the Executive Board, and encourages UNICEF management to ensure the adequate and sustainable funding and staffing of the Office.

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2025/16

UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2024 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2024 annual report to the Executive Board (E/ICEF/2025/AB/L.3), its two addenda (E/ICEF/2025/AB/L.3/Add.1 and E/ICEF/2025/AB/L.3/Add.2) and its management response (E/ICEF/2025/AB/L.4), and welcomes the overall opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organization's framework of governance, risk management and controls;
- 2. Also takes note of the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and calls upon UNICEF to ensure the full and timely implementation of all audit recommendations;
- 3. Further takes note of the UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2024 annual report to the Executive Board;

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- 4. Reiterates the importance of the full independence of the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and its direct access to the Executive Board, and encourages UNICEF management to ensure the adequate and sustainable funding and staffing of the Office;
- 5. *Invites* UNICEF to organize an informal briefing of the Executive Board with the UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee ahead of the annual session of 2026.

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2025/17

Annual report on the risk profile of UNICEF

The Executive Board

- 1. Takes note of the annual report on the risk profile of UNICEF (E/ICEF/2025/25), including the six identified risks of strategic importance to the organization for the period 2025–2026, and welcomes the measures proposed by UNICEF to effectively respond to these risks;
- 2. Encourages UNICEF to communicate and consult with the Executive Board about risks at any time if they exceed the organization's risk appetite and its ability to manage these risks;
- 3. Requests UNICEF to, as part of the recurring agenda item, include in its annual report on the risk profile of UNICEF, information on actions taken to ensure systematic implementation of risk policies and practices, and to ensure that compliance is embedded throughout the organization and encouraged in implementing partners.

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2025/18

Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Executive Board

- 1. *Takes note* of the Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2024 (E/ICEF/2025/AB/L.5);
- 2. Also takes note that the revenue figures presented in this report are subject to external audit and that the non-financial results are indicative.

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