



# 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 2022

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**2022/9**

**Annual report for 2021 of the Executive Director of UNICEF**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2021 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, 2018–2021; the report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system; the joint annex on the implementation of the common chapter of the strategic plans, 2018–2021 of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); 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. *Recalls* its decisions 2021/13, paragraph 3, and 2021/14, paragraph 7, and requests UNICEF to continue to include in the annual reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, including in its midterm review, information on results jointly achieved with United Nations development system entities identified through common and complementary indicators.

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**2022/10**

**Annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the annual report on UNICEF humanitarian action ([E/ICEF/2022/13](#));

2. *Commends* the efforts of UNICEF and looks forward to the implementation of lessons learned from UNICEF humanitarian action, 2018–2021 to improve goals results throughout the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025;

3. *Requests* UNICEF to provide an update on the progress made towards the implementation of the recommendations of its Humanitarian Review during the first regular session of 2023.

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**2022/11**

**Country programme documents**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* that the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania ([E/ICEF/2022/P/L.16](#) and [E/ICEF/2022/P/L.17](#)) were made available to the Member States for their comments and input from 22 March to 11 April, and for the Syrian Arab Republic ([E/ICEF/2022/P/L.18](#)) from 24 March to 13 April;

2. *Approves* on a no-objection basis, and in accordance with decision 2014/1, the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Kenya, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania ([E/ICEF/2022/P/L.16](#)–[E/ICEF/2022/P/L.18](#)).

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## **2022/12**

### **Extensions of ongoing country programmes**

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note of* the first two-month extension of the country programme for Ecuador; the first two-month extension of the multi-country programme for the Pacific Islands; the first six-month extensions of the country programmes for Chile and Papua New Guinea; and the first one-year extension of the country programme for Myanmar, which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1 of document [E/ICEF/2022/P/L.19](#);

2. *Approves* the one-year extension of the country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, following a previous one-year extension; these are presented in table 2 of document [E/ICEF/2022/P/L.19](#).

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## **2022/13**

### **Evaluation reports and management responses**

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note of* the annual report for 2021 on the evaluation function in UNICEF ([E/ICEF/2022/17](#)) and its management response ([E/ICEF/2022/18](#));

2. *Also takes note of* the evaluation of the UNICEF role as cluster lead/co-lead agency, its summary ([E/ICEF/2022/19](#)) and its management response ([E/ICEF/2022/20](#));

3. *Encourages* UNICEF to take the necessary steps to further strengthen the evaluation function, including by timely implementation of those elements as included in the management response;

4. *Requests* UNICEF to brief the Executive Board at the annual session of 2023 on the progress UNICEF has made towards the timely implementation of the actions outlined in the management response to the evaluation of the UNICEF role as cluster lead/co-lead agency;

5. *Looks forward to* the updated UNICEF evaluation policy and the process leading towards the adoption of this updated policy, including the results of the independent peer review;

6. *Takes note with appreciation of* the increase in overall evaluation expenditure to 0.91 per cent of total programme expenditure in 2021, which brings the 1 per cent goal within reach;

7. *Welcomes* the evaluation function's continuous focus on outcome- and impact-level evaluations and organizational follow-through on evaluations and encourages UNICEF to increase the number of impact-level evaluations;

8. *Recalls* its decision 2021/10, paragraph 9, and requests UNICEF to provide, in the annual report for 2022 on the evaluation function, updates on the application of innovative technologies and approaches, including a discussion of associated risks and UNICEF management plans to address them;

9. *Encourages* UNICEF to increase the number of joint evaluations conducted at global and decentralized levels and to strengthen the organizational follow-up, including through joint management responses;

10. *Takes note with concern* of the modest progress made in strengthening national capacities for evaluation and requests UNICEF to accelerate progress.

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#### **2022/14**

##### **Report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2021, and management response**

###### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ethics Office of UNICEF for 2021 ([E/ICEF/2022/15](#)) and the management response ([E/ICEF/2022/16](#));

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the successful outreach activities of the Ethics Office of UNICEF and its timely responses to the doubled number of requests without additional personnel;

3. *Takes note* of the launch of the Ethics and Culture Champions aimed at raising awareness about ethics and integrity organization-wide through volunteers and within the Office's existing resources, and requests the Ethics Office to provide an update on this initiative, within existing reporting;

4. *Also takes note* of the continuously growing caseload of the Ethics Office and, concerned about its limited capacities, requests UNICEF to ensure that the Ethics Office can adequately execute its mandate and, in this context, recalls its decision 2020/19 and urgently requests UNICEF to provide sufficient financial and staff resources to the Ethics Office, including for field personnel, based on the needs assessment;

5. *Requests* the Ethics Office to maintain and strengthen its independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [60/248](#) and [60/254](#) on the establishment of the Ethics Office, and encourages direct and independent communication with the Executive Board, as needed, through reports or briefings, in particular on concerns related to whistle-blower protection against retaliation issues;

6. *Also requests* UNICEF and the Ethics Office to continue to report on the adequacy of resources made available.

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#### **2022/15**

##### **UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2021 annual report to the Executive Board, and management response**

###### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations 2021 annual report to the Executive Board ([E/ICEF/2022/AB/L.5](#)), its addendum ([E/ICEF/2022/AB/L.5/Add.1](#)) and its management response ([E/ICEF/2022/AB/L.6](#)),

as well as the UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee 2021 annual report to the Executive Board, and welcomes the overall opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the organization's framework of governance, risk management and controls;

2. *Welcomes* the progress of UNICEF in addressing audit-related management issues in 2021 and notes with appreciation efforts to implement outstanding audit recommendations;

3. *Recalls* decision 2020/20 and reiterates the importance of the provision of sufficient resources for audit and investigation functions;

4. *Requests* that the Executive Board receive more regular closed briefings from the Office, in a timely manner and throughout the year, as needed, on potential red flags, audit findings and the status of investigations;

5. *Also requests* the Director of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations to provide at the second regular session of 2022 an assessment on the independence of the Office, containing reflections on (but not limited to) the degree to which the Office can determine freely: (a) how and when to report to and brief the Executive Board; (b) the scope of audits and investigations; (c) what and who to audit or investigate; (d) what assessments to make; (e) how to utilize available funds; and (f) its relationship with the Office of Internal Oversight Services; and requests the Director to also provide suggestions and pathways on how to further strengthen the independence of the Office, as well as the budget estimate required for the execution of the full mandate, and requests a closed preparatory meeting between the management of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and Executive Board members and observers on this topic in advance of the second regular session of 2022;

6. *Decides* to have the update on evaluation, audit and oversight matters for decision at the second regular session of 2022.

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## **2022/16**

### **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**

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the 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;

2. *Encourages* UNICEF to continue to implement resolutions [72/279](#), [75/233](#) and [76/4](#), and to support the efforts of the Secretary-General in implementing related mandates;

3. *Welcomes* UNICEF progress in aligning country programme documents with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and encourages UNICEF to continue to seek confirmation from the resident coordinators of the alignment of the country programmes with the Cooperation Frameworks;

4. *Also welcomes* the partnerships with international financial institutions, and requests an update, as a stand-alone item on the agenda at the first regular session of 2023, on UNICEF engagement with international financial institutions;

5. *Stresses* the importance of integrated solutions, including enhanced collaboration across humanitarian, development and peace operations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to address complex, multifaceted challenges impacting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests UNICEF to update the Board, within existing reporting, on how it collaborates in joint analysis, needs assessments, planning, including collective outcomes, and programme delivery;

6. *Requests* UNICEF to provide the Executive Board with an update on the implementation of the Management and Accountability Framework, including the contributions of representatives at country level and regional directors to the implementation of United Nations development system reform, within existing reporting;

7. *Also requests* UNICEF to provide the Executive Board, within existing reporting, with information and data on its efficiency gains achieved and its efforts to realize efficiency gains through its contributions to system-wide coherence, collaboration and harmonization, and stresses the need to continue to realize efficiency gains, as stated in operational paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#).

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## **2022/17**

### **Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2021**

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the Private Fundraising and Partnerships: financial report for the year ended 31 December 2021;

2. *Also takes note* that the revenue figures presented in this report are subject to external audit and the non-financial results are indicative;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the total revenue sourced from the private sector, but notes with concern the ongoing trend of decreasing regular resources as a share of total private sector income and encourages UNICEF to increase its efforts in the fundraising of regular resources from private sector sources beyond individual donors, including from philanthropists, foundations and businesses;

4. *Requests* UNICEF to present to the Executive Board an update, in the form of an informal briefing ahead of the first regular session of 2023, on its innovative and alternative financing strategy, with a focus on the generation of flexible resources, including on its ambition to use alternative sources of funding to invest in private sector fundraising activities; and to organize, on the margins of the first regular session of 2023, a special focus session on innovative financing that includes country office and National Committee perspectives.

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