

**United States Remarks for the
UNICEF Executive Board Annual Session
June 1-4, 2021**

Item 9: Report of the Ethics Office

The U.S welcomes the report of the Ethics Office.

The U.S would like to express appreciation for the Office's cooperation with the Department of State in providing data for our annual report to our Congress regarding whistleblower protection, ethics training and oversight, and travel policies.

The U.S. welcomes the changes in the Ethics Office since the last annual session, with the addition of a Director and the establishment of the Office as an independent unit, increased collaboration with affinity groups, and conducting effective outreach activities despite challenges due to the pandemic.

The U.S. notes the heightened focus, as highlighted in the report, of the new Office on the preventive aspect of ethics oversight and strongly agrees that this approach plays a vital role in preventing and mitigating misconduct as well as organizational harm.

We note, however, that links to the Ethics Office, ethics and whistleblower policies, and an ethics hotline are not easily accessible through UNICEF's website, an issue the United States has previously raised. Can the Office assure us this issue will be addressed?

Additionally, what concrete steps is the Ethics Office planning to take for outreach to field staff to increase their awareness and utilization of the services provided by this office?