

Statement delivered by Arelys Bellorini, Senior United Nations Representative at the Annual Session of the UNICEF Executive Board meeting from June 14 – 17, 2022 during the General Statements on Agenda items 2 and 3. [Check against delivery.](#)

Mr. President, Executive Director, Mrs. Russell, distinguished Ambassadors and delegates.

It is encouraging for NGOs from Civil Society to be joining you in-person. For us to be back at the UN participating in-person has been long overdue. We still face a number of challenges at other UN bodies and wish to ask your continued support to eliminate those barriers. In this context, of limited space for Civil Society, my organization wishes to take this opportunity to thank the President, the Executive Director and Members of this Board because your sessions over the last years have remained open to our participation through the whole virtual modality. One of the very few spaces that remained so.

We have heard ED Russell opening statement and read her annual report. We fully concur with her and UNICEF's assessment about the dire situation children are facing in today's changed world. From the aftershock effect of the global pandemic to the ripple effects of the Ukraine crisis, children are and remain at the center of the worst calamities. From the negative impact of climate change on children to crisis and conflict, children's suffering and violations of their rights are the highest in recent history. Actions and Solutions should be top on the agenda of the international community for actions and solutions.

The children's crisis as we all often refer is affecting almost 21 million children who are one-step away from famine and facing starvation. This number keeps rising. Conflict, COVID-19 and climate change are interacting to create new and worsening existing hunger hotspots, reversing the gains families had made to escape poverty.

World Vision has been on the ground in 25 of the 43 countries facing hunger. We have been in 70 countries providing life-saving assistance, tackling malnutrition, providing clean water, protecting children from harm and improving livelihoods as they face the global pandemic and have reached over 35 million children.

Working in partnerships has never been more important than today. We commend UNICEF's work in partnership with the NGO community across different sectors and themes. Nonetheless, we wish to invite us all to raise the bar and go even further on our existing partnerships and address how we work, how and can we do better. Most importantly, agility and efficiency need to go hand in hand.

I would like to conclude by quoting World Vision's President and CEO, Andrew Morley:

*The number of children facing starvation is alarming – and the stories are heart breaking. Let us united to bring hope.*

Thank You.