

## **UNICEF Executive Board**

### **Annual Session**

#### **Item 3 Annual report for 2021 of the Executive Director of UNICEF**

**Tuesday June 14**

Mr. President, Madam Executive Director,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and my own country Norway.

As outlined in the joint statement delivered by Denmark, we commend UNICEF for progress achieved in 2021, particularly in light of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing threat of climate change and severe and protracted humanitarian crisis.

As this report marks the end of the reporting period for the previous strategic plan, it provides an opportunity to look back at the entire period. UNICEF's performance is significant over the last four years, both annually and in cumulative terms. We recognize the efforts of UNICEF leadership and staff at all levels in achieving these results.

Although we recognize that it takes time for system level outcomes to have effects on children's lives and livelihood, and that lasting change may come at a later stage, we think it is important to keep in mind the bigger picture. We believe UNICEF could have used this report to showcase and evaluate progress and systemic and composite changes over the last four years, and where UNICEF see their role as critical to make these changes come about. This would have allowed for a more informed discussion on impact level change, and we encourage UNICEF to take this approach in the future.

This annual meeting also marks the first in the reporting period of the current Strategic Plan. In this regard, we welcome this opportunity to discuss the updated, and thus finalized, integrated results and resources framework. We look forward to reviewing the disaggregated data, including on gender and disability, which provides an important opportunity to discuss the operationalisation of a human rights-based approach, where no one is left behind.

To have sufficient and reliable data on progress becomes even more important as we approach year 2030. We urge UNICEF to specify the year on baseline values where the data for 2021 has not yet been possible to assemble, to allow for a precise discussion on where further efforts are needed to ensure the necessary progress. And further, in anticipation of the annual report in 2026 we encourage UNICEF to prepare for an analysis of results and progress over the entire period 2022 - 2025.

UNICEF's reporting on the goals as defined in the strategic plan is central for us as Member States. Qualitative financing, as per the commitments in the Funding Compact, rely on transparent, timely

reporting to provide the necessary oversight of Outcome-level result. Accountability, for what is often collective results for the UN-system, is pivotal to maintain support for flexible funding modalities. We wish to end by commending UNICEF on taking a lead in the cooperation on data collection, and to pave the way for a more harmonized and integrated system for reporting on country level changes, and for your consistent efforts to achieve, and demonstrate, progress in achieving your mandate.

You can count on our support in helping UNICEF fulfil its global mandate for the rights of children.