

Statement of Algeria

Annual Session of UNICEF Executive Board

Item : General debate
(New York, 14 June 2022)

(Time : 3 minutes)

Mr. President,

Allow me, at the outset, to convey my delegation's full appreciation over the tremendous efforts, you Mr. President and the bureau members are deploying in leading the UNICEF Executive Board. I wish also to thank the entire team of the Secretariat of the Executive Board for all the efforts deployed in the preparation of this Session.

I seize this convening to express a special thanks to Ms. Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director, for her continued engagement for the achievement of UNICEF objectives and her invaluable support for the success of our work.

Mr. President,

Today's meeting constitutes, indeed, a timely opportunity to make an extensive assessment and build upon the lessons learned from the previous Strategic Plan in order to reach the goals of the 2022-2025 strategic plan. It is from our perspective, the best way to make UNICEF an innovative and resilient organization advocating for the well-being of children around the world.

Algeria fully recognizes the encouraging efforts deployed by UNICEF and the satisfactory results achieved, so far, on the ground. Nevertheless, much remain to be done, taking into account the growing challenges children are facing around the world. In fact, the security risks, and the socio-economic impacts of conflicts, aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in Africa, are yet to be the major threats against a sustainable progress to protect children. Consequently, the choices we make today will shape the future of every African child, millions of whom continue to live on humanitarian Aid.

Against this backdrop, Algeria strongly believes on the importance of strengthening the action of UNICEF, particularly in addressing the following areas:

1. Eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions: The COVID-19 pandemic reversed the progress in the fight against child poverty. In addition, developing countries are recovering at a slower pace and continue to register higher levels of unemployment, prolonging the suffering of families and children.

2. Achieving universal health coverage and ensuring access to vaccination for all, especially for children living in conflicts areas or living in remote areas.

3. Ensuring a quality education for all, in particular for children from the poorest regions, who risk falling further behind in their education. It is our duty to find the adequate solutions to the shortcomings exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

4. Strengthening UNICEF's humanitarian action, particularly, for the benefit of populations living in conflict situations because they largely depend on humanitarian aid from UNICEF and UN Agencies. It is, from our point of view, critical to focus on actions that save lives, alleviate suffering, preserve human dignity, and protect the rights of affected populations.

The challenges are enormous, but they are within reach of our ambitions and our commitment. Throughout greater cooperation, closer coordination, and increased collaboration and investment, we can ensure progress for every child.

For its part, Algeria spared no efforts in achieving all the international benchmarks for children's schooling. Over the past 25 years, Algeria has, also, made significant progress in improving the health conditions of children and mothers.

In this respect, let me express our appreciation for UNICEF's valuable support for the laudable efforts deployed by my country in this domain, which will certainly enhance further cooperation for the fulfillment of child's rights in Algeria.

Finally, Algeria, which was among the first countries to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, attaches particular interest to this segment of society and its promotion.

I thank you