

## UNICEF Executive Board – Annual Session 2022

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

#### National Statement by Germany

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Dear colleagues, members of the Executive Board, esteemed UNICEF staff, Mme Executive Director,

- On behalf of my country, Germany, I sincerely thank Madam ED for her first Annual Report. 2021 has been yet another year of crises, caused by the COVID pandemic, by natural disasters, and by violent wars and conflicts. Children suffer first and foremost from these crises. We applaud and thank UNICEF for all its efforts to assist children, adolescents and families in need, to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential.
- Despite all the suffering the COVID 19 pandemic has caused, it has also been and continues to be a positive example of the need and the success of international collaboration and the cooperation of the UN agencies. UNICEF has taken over a decisive role in shaping this cooperation and in coordinating international efforts to deliver vaccinations globally.
- UNICEF has been confronted during this year with growing humanitarian needs and has risen to these challenges. We note that 57 % of the overall budget went into the work in crisis situations. While we acknowledge that you reacted to these growing humanitarian needs, we also ask you to consider the balance of the dual mandate: of humanitarian action and development.
- Germany is convinced that putting the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus into practice is the right path to reach our shared goals. There is the need to assist those in ongoing crisis situations, but the need to strengthen resilience of local vulnerable populations and communities and to strengthen the responsiveness of existing systems for current and future shocks in fragile regions is as important. We welcome that the report states a growing focus on adaptive social systems and the strengthening of social cohesion in UNICEF programming.
- Facing draughts, floods, storms, and other effects of climate change, climate resilience becomes all the more important if we want to ensure sustainable livelihoods and systems. We encourage and urge UNICEF to ensure that climate awareness and action becomes an integrated part of all UNICEF's programming.

- The current year confronted us with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. We need to shed light on the secondary consequences of this war: While the rises in food and energy prices due to Russia's war have gotten global attention, secondary consequences in many social sectors like education and health due to negative coping mechanisms are equally likely to be dramatic. Early marriage and child labor are bound to rise in many countries. We ask UNICEF to collect evidence to make the case for children and their families in this regard
  
- Germany has been at UNICEF's side in its work, contributing to its core funds and financing programs. I am grateful to be able to confirm that Germany will be able to maintain a high level of core contributions in 2022.
  
- Let me finish by conveying to UNICEF and all its staff our sincere gratitude. We thank you all for your hard work all over the world and very often under the most difficult living and working conditions, in these exceptionally challenging and difficult times.
  
- And I thank you all for your kind attention.