

Canada's National Statement
Annual Session 2022 of the UNICEF Executive Board

Mr. President, Madam Executive Director, Esteemed Colleagues,

After two years of virtual sessions, it is a pleasure to be here in person with you again.

Canada congratulates UNICEF's strong 2021 results and progress reported across the five goal areas, in both development and humanitarian settings, achieved despite increasingly complex and difficult situations, environmental impacts, and the protracted pandemic.

Canada commends UNICEF for its significant efforts in providing much-needed services and support for children and families in humanitarian crises in 2021, and most recently in Afghanistan and Ukraine. We fully support UNICEF's role as a trusted humanitarian partner and efforts in improving the quality of your humanitarian responses and interventions, including in providing WASH; treating children for severe acute malnutrition; emergency education programming; and child protection safe spaces, including services for adolescents and women.

UNICEF has also been a catalytic partner in the global response to COVID-19 and Canada has been pleased to support the Agency through

their work in both the therapeutics pillar and the vaccines pillar. We welcome the continued partnership to ensure that safe and efficacious vaccines and therapeutics are equitably available, and that countries continue to receive the supports they need to roll them out from UNICEF and other ACT-A partners.

Canada is pleased that UNICEF continues to advance gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. We acknowledge the trend in increased gender expenditures at the institutional level, and expect UNICEF to continue on this trajectory in order to meet its gender-transformative ambitions. We note, however, challenges in staff capacity and gaps in gender expertise, with 29 country offices still needing to integrate gender results in their programming, and the need to work more with organizations that represent the rights of women and girls. *Question: What concrete measures is UNICEF taking to address these challenges?*

The cascading impacts of rising food and fuel prices, food insecurity, debt and displacement driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine are further jeopardizing achievement of the SDGs. Addressing these threats will require even greater efforts by UNICEF in partnership with the whole UN system and member states. As such, Canada remains strongly committed to UN reform. Current and evolving global crises

can only be met by a “one UN” effective, efficient, relevant and accountable response. We appreciate UNICEF’s efforts to implement reform measures. We look to continued efforts to realign your country configuration, business operations and privilege joint approaches across UNICEF planning, programming, financing, implementation, reporting and evaluation in-line with the UN cooperation frameworks.

Finally, let me close by expressing our deep gratitude to UNICEF staff. We value their dedication in delivering life-saving assistance amidst the enormous challenges we collectively face today.

You can continue to count on Canada as a strong voice of support for UNICEF’s important mandate and work. Thank you.