Executive Board of UNICEF

Annual Session 2022

Item 11: Private Sector Fundraising financial report 2021

June 15, 2022, New York

Mr/Madam Chair

I deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and my own country, Switzerland

[Results and targets]
We commend the PFP Director and her team on the excellent results in the reporting year. Private sector revenues in 2021 have yet again increased considerably compared to the previous year, surpassing the 2021 revenue targets by far.

This growth is largely driven by a sharp increase in other revenues, including emergency revenues from individual donors, thereby mirroring the staggering numbers of protracted and sudden onset humanitarian crises around the world.

[Regular resources]
On the other hand, the growth of regular resource income is modest, at 5% compared to the previous year, resulting in a declining share of regular resources as total of private sector income.

We recognize that raising regular resources is more costly than raising earmarked funding.

[Innovate financing]
In light of UNICEF's ambition to considerably expand the use of innovative financing to help generate more regular resources: How does UNICEF intend to use investment funds and innovative financing strategically to increase regular revenue generation?

The WB instrument, which enabled the investment of USD 50 Mio. in 18 emerging markets, seems to have generated largely other resources income, considering that UNICEF country offices' regular resources' revenues were only 12% of their total revenues in 2021, compared to 15% in 2020.

We would therefore welcome receiving UNICEF's innovative financing and investment strategy and a presentation thereof, including an analysis of risks, ~~at the Second Regular Session 2022 of the Executive Board~~. We would also be interested to hear from the National Committees and UNICEF country offices with structured private sector fundraising capacities on potentials and challenges with regards to raising regular resources in their country contexts.

[Debt Financing]

On the specific instrument of debt financing, we welcome the ACABQ's opinion and in particular its recommendation to establish an Advisory Committee under the UNICEF Executive Board to advise on financial aspects of specific funding agreements considered for approval. We also share the ACABQ's expectations towards detailed risk analysis and risk management parameters that will be provided for each investment instrument.

We look forward to receiving more information in due time.

[Partnerships]
We acknowledge the increasing number of children reached as a results of engaging with businesses and welcome the more systematic integration of business partnerships into programming. Partnerships, such as the one established with the Swiss based Z Zurich Foundation on mental health, underscore the significant role National Committees play in engaging international companies and leveraging their networks for a child rights agenda. Important progress has also been realized in capitalizing on private sector initiatives and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) to advocate for children's rights.

We believe that UNICEF's successful engagement with businesses provides a blueprint for other UN agencies to partner with private sector businesses and advocate for their active involvement in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. What platforms does UNICEF use to share experiences and best practices on business engagement and advocacy with other UN Agencies?

Similarly, how does UNICEF capitalize on its leading role in business partnerships to nurture partnerships with UN Agencies with a view to promote a child rights approach across the UNs engagement with private sector and also IFIs?

We look forward to your insights.