

**Check against delivery**

**Statement**

**By**

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**Second Secretary at the Federal Democratic Republic  
of Ethiopia to the United Nations**

**At**

**The 2022 UNICEF Executive Board Annual Session**

**On**

**Item 4: UNICEF Humanitarian Action**

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**New York**

## **Thank You Madam Chair,**

Ethiopia acknowledges the tremendous work of and results achieved by UNICEF in addressing the challenges of vulnerable children worldwide in the year 2021. It is indeed commendable that despite increasing challenges and the many shortfalls, UNICEF continues to make strides to deliver results for children including in the toughest corners of the world.

Ethiopia benefits greatly from the various interventions and support of UNICEF, and for that, my government is grateful.

The report highlights the alarming statistics of people requiring humanitarian assistance resulting from Covid19 pandemic, climate-induced drought and conflicts, the impacts of which cause unimaginable suffering to children.

These crises are threatening to reverse decades of progress, thus call for fundamental paradigm shift in our priorities, approaches and actions. These situations also require us to strengthen our collaboration and accelerate actions toward achieving our common goals.

The Horn of Africa is one of the regions experiencing climate-induced drought, and for my country, it is the worst in decades. Over 6.8 million people in Southern and South Eastern Ethiopia are severely impacted and their livelihoods shattered. This has been a very painful turn of event for millions self-reliant households who have had to rely on farming and pasturing to sustain their livelihoods and support their

families. The situation is even worrisome for children as it has left many in life threatening conditions due to severe malnutrition.

There are also those displaced and in dire need of humanitarian aid due to conflict in the northern region of Ethiopia. Millions, including children, are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and basic services to survive.

In addition, disruption of routine immunization services due to the covid19 pandemic continue to risk the well-being of children. This, coupled with other calamities have also driven up the learning loss for children.

In addressing these challenges, the Ethiopian Government in collaboration with partners including UNICEF has been intensifying its response to the humanitarian emergencies. However, much still remains to be done. In this regard, my delegation would like to emphasis the following points:

First, developed countries and partners must increase their financial and technical support to countries at risk of climate-related calamities to adapt to new realities while honoring commitments to sustainably address climate change, including through cutting carbon emissions to zero.

Second, it is critical to ensure equitable distribution of covid19 vaccines and therapeutics to low-income countries. While commending what UNICEF has managed to achieve in this area, there is still a long way to

go particularly in developing countries, and efforts must be scaled up in this regard. Remember, no one is safe until everyone is safe.

Third, the UN development system, partners and relevant stakeholders must assist developing countries in their efforts to rebuild their health, education and social protection systems to make them withstand future challenges.

And finally, donors and funding partners must fulfill their commitment and scale up their efforts in providing predictable and reliable funding for UNICEF to enable it respond to the growing humanitarian challenges and deliver the much-needed assistance to millions of children around the world.

**I thank you**