

Statement of Algeria
Annual Session of UNICEF Executive Board

Item 4 : UNICEF humanitarian action
(New York, 15 June 2022)

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude for the crucial contribution of UNICEF to the global humanitarian aid efforts.

The situation as described in the UNICEF report is alarming. A record number of people globally – 235 million – required humanitarian assistance in 2021, a number that is expected to rise to 274 million in 2022. Millions of children and families need humanitarian support to have adequate nutrition, access to preventive health care and recover from illness and injury and enjoy education. Prolonged and violent conflicts remained the primary drivers of the humanitarian needs of children and families.

The cost of today's inaction will be heavy to bear tomorrow, not only financially, but also in terms of human lives and the additional burden on countries already exposed to various socio-economic and security challenges. Acting means taking immediate and necessary measures to tackle risk factors and optimize protective measures for children comprehensively and sustainably.

Algeria which remains a secular land of solidarity and hospitality, as well as a respectful country of the international refugee law has facilitated, since the very beginning of the conflict in Western Sahara in 1975 the work of the UN Agencies to deploy in Algeria by providing relief, protection, and assistance to the refugees.

I seize this opportunity to hail the effort of UNICEF in providing the logistical support and assistance provided to the Sahrawi populations living in Tindouf. The support of the United Nations and the specialized agencies is essential for the Sahrawi refugees as they largely depend on humanitarian aid and the work of UN agencies in the field.

My government welcomes the efforts made by UNICEF in the refugee camps, in particular in ensuring the education of refugee children, and their access to safe drinking water and sanitation, nutrition, and health.

Algeria would like to thank UNICEF which drew on the full force of its mandate and a dynamic network of partners to provide a protective and life-saving response and to strengthen countries resilience and preparedness.

We remain ready to continue supporting UNICEF in these endeavors.

I thank you