



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

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Item 3

Statement by

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Madam President of the Executive Board,
Distinguished Members and Observers of the Board,

For more than 75 years UNICEF has been tirelessly striving to deliver life-saving and life-changing results for children with a focus on reaching the most vulnerable. Unfortunately, we are currently witnessing unprecedented and still growing fragility around the world fueled by the the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and the growing geopolitical instability, including the global impacts of Russia's war against Ukraine.

This means UNICEF has to do more than its best.

We commend UNICEF and its staff for their tireless efforts under these challenging circumstances. We are also pleased to see the record level of support from donors for UNICEF's work in 2022, which gives the organization the mandate to build and strengthen the most critical partnerships – in favor of vulnerable children.

As UNICEF is part of the UN Development System (UNDS), it is also affected by the ongoing reform process, especially regarding the role of the Resident Coordinators (RCs) in leading the country-level operations. This means that UNICEF needs to strengthen its collaboration with the RCs and ensure that its Country Programme Documents are fully consistent with the UN Cooperation Frameworks.

UNICEF's humanitarian action in 2022 included a number of large scale relief operations in response to both natural disasters and human-made crises. We are well aware of the global situation and take every crisis seriously. In my home region, Europe, the unprecedented and unjustifiable war has led to the largest number of forcibly displaced people since WWII. It has been mostly women with children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, who fled the war in Ukraine and who are in need of protection and targeted humanitarian and stabilization assistance. Following this development, UNICEF has opened temporary missions in several EU countries, including Czechia. We appreciate UNICEF's cooperation with the Czech Government and regional and local authorities.

Czechia stands with Ukraine and its refugees in their struggle. However, we also maintain our support for other countries and populations in fragile situations. Our priority areas are anticipatory action, climate security and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. We aim to protect children, women and girls and other persons in marginalized situations in fragile contexts. We commend UNICEF for its work in 2022 on climate security and stabilization in fragile settings, which address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable group – the youth.

Dear colleagues,

To conclude, we urge everyone to continue working together to create a more stable and prosperous future for children, their families and their communities.

Thank you for your attention.