

National Statement

Second Regular Session 2023 of the UNICEF Executive Board

Agenda item 6: Structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025

Madam/Mr President,

We thank UNICEF for their comprehensive and high-quality report on the structured financing dialogue, including on the Funding Compact implementation. The report shows the achievements and challenges facing UNICEF in times of multiple crises. It makes it very clear that meeting the commitments of the Funding Compact, both by the Member States and the United Nations Development System entities, is more relevant than ever.

We commend UNICEF for meeting all its agency-specific commitments of the Funding Compact. Now it is up to Members States to do our share and speed up the process on our side. As an illustration of this – we note and welcome that UNICEF’s total income reached record levels in 2022. We know that there is a lot of hard work and strategic decisions behind that increase, especially given the current global context. At the same time, we notice the continued downward trend in core funding.

UNICEF often calls core funding their “liquid gold”. However, the silver lining here might be the increase in flexible funding through thematic funds. Here the private sector takes the lead.

Sweden is happy to have been mentioned in the report in reference to the thematic funding pilot programs to UNICEF country programmes in Bolivia, the DRC, Sudan, and Uganda. Other donors have followed, and Sweden looks forward to continuing the constructive dialogue with UNICEF and other Member states on support to and the development of “*single agency thematic fund*”-modalities for flexible funding to achieve results for children.

Finally, Sweden underlines the importance of ownership and renewed commitments to achieve UNICEF’s transformative results. As one of the largest donors to UNICEF, Sweden appreciates the organization’s efforts to broaden its donor base, including for flexible funding. Our contributions come with high expectations on efficiency and results in relation to our investments – especially at country level. The efforts to mobilize domestic resources and private capital can be further accelerated.

We need to share the responsibility to fund the UN System. It is unsustainable that a few donors provide an unproportionally high share of the core support to UNICEF. We can do more together, and we can all do better.

Thank you.