

**Second Regular Session of the 2023 UNICEF Executive Board  
Statement by Ambassador Sangjin KIM**

**Tuesday, 5 September, 11:00-13:00, Conference Room 3**

Thank you, Madame President, and Executive Director Russell,

It is a great concern that the world being off-track on achieving the SDGs directly jeopardizes over half a billion children on their survival, healthy development, and education.

My delegation believes that UNICEF has a key role in overcoming this obstacle and in this regard, we would like to highlight the following three points.

First, we congratulate UNICEF for achieving its all-time high funding of 9.3 billion USD in 2022. We also appreciate UNICEF for its utmost efforts to mobilize resources not only from government donors, but also from private sectors and other stakeholders as well.

The Korean Government encourages UNICEF to continue striving towards finding innovative ways to leverage partnerships and to further broaden its donor base; securing sustainable funding is essential to ensure that humanitarian and development activities are financed in a balanced manner to leave no child behind. Our government will also do our best efforts in supporting UNICEF, as budgeting the largest amount of ODA for next year is currently being reviewed.

In this light, we would like to ask how UNICEF is building strategies on further securing core funding. We also have raised this question at the Annual Executive Board for UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS in June and wish to know how this issue is being addressed in a coordinated manner across the UN Development System.

Second, my delegation firmly believes that building a resilient health system is crucial to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With this in mind, the Korean Government will actively contribute to strengthening primary health care and ensuring access to essential health services, with our pledge of \$300 million USD to ACT-A from 2023 to 2025. As a follow-up to this year's Annual Board Session on evaluation of UNICEF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we request UNICEF to share on the progress made so far to strengthen the organization's capacity on public health emergency preparedness.

Lastly, implementing evidence-based programmes is essential to advance innovative solutions to maximize results for children. In this vein, my delegation welcomes the revision of evaluation policy that is better fit for purpose with the organization's changing operating context.

We request UNICEF to fully implement the revised policy and to regularly share the performance of the evaluation function with the Board.

In closing, the Republic of Korea will remain fully supportive of UNICEF's noble efforts to realize the rights of every child.

Thank you. /END/

(Time limit: 3 minutes)