



NGO COMMITTEE on UNICEF

Oral Statement Second Regular Session September 2023 UNICEF Executive Board Agenda item 2

Distinguished President, esteemed Excellencies, respected delegates, and honored guests. It is a pleasure that I stand before you at yet another Executive Board Regular Session, representing the NGO Committee on UNICEF—a coalition of transnational civil society organizations headquartered in New York, charged with advising the esteemed Executive Board of UNICEF.

As we gather here, I wish to acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the efforts invested by member states and the Executive Board throughout the various Regular Sessions held this year. The Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 has indeed instigated tangible changes, and we commend these initiatives. Nevertheless, we remain determined in our pursuit of comprehensive systemic transformation, as we endeavor to realize the Sustainable Development Objectives delineated within the Strategic Plan.

Within the context of the Second Regular Session, I take this opportunity to present a series of recommendations on behalf of our members and organizations, addressing the following areas:

1. Advocate for the development of educational programs that amplify awareness surrounding child safeguarding, violence, and exploitation. This

encompasses the creation of workshops and the launch of campaigns intended to educate parents, caregivers, and community members about the recognition and prevention of instances of maltreatment.

2. Ensure that early childhood development initiatives are prioritized and facilitated with a focus on marginalized communities, children who have experienced poverty, conflict, displacement, and disabilities while at the same time guaranteeing that girls and young women can realize their human right to a secondary, tertiary, and college-level education.

3. Advocate for the establishment of age-sensitive psychosocial support initiatives which will cater to a variety of age groups and assist children in coping with the aftermath of trauma and stress. This includes extending empathetic assistance to distressed children, particularly focusing on the mental well-being of those affected by conflict and displacement.

4. Provide comprehensive educational initiatives that call for the universal adoption of digital learning methodologies, ensuring equitable access to prevent any form of exclusion. At the same time address the topic of online safety for both children and parents, informing them of the dangers associated with cyberbullying and grooming

5. Support the adoption of climate-resilient policies, urging a swift adaptation of critical social services—ranging from water, sanitation, health, nutrition, and education to child protection—in alignment with the evolving climate reality.

6. Extend our support for education, particularly through investments in public education, with an emphasis on providing the necessary resources and opportunities for all students that will result in an inclusive and equitable

educational landscape, harmonized with the Sustainable Development Goals, with a specific focus on SDG4 and SDG5.

7. Establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to gauge the effectiveness of implemented programs. To achieve this, it is necessary to use data-driven insights, including but not limited to standardized, disaggregated, and multi-sectional measures, to make judicious decisions and to gradually refine implementation plans over time.

8. Ensure the acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy skills for all students regardless of race, gender, or ethnicity and, where necessary, address the loss of learning that has occurred due to COVID19.

As a collective, we are committed to amplifying the voices of society, dedicated to embracing and safeguarding every child's rights. In this capacity, we are ready to collaborate, incorporating the recommendations voiced by our members to foster even greater results.

It is necessary that we recall that children represent our future societies, underscoring the necessity of securing a brighter and more promising future for them.

Thank you, Madame President.