



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Second Regular Session of UNICEF's Executive Board**  
**Item 2: General Statements**  
New York, 5 September 2023

Madam President,

Madam Executive Director,

Distinguished colleagues,

We would like to thank the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF for their informative opening statements and, of course, for their work, which is instrumental in advancing UNICEF's mandate and goals.

For Greece, this is the seventh time that we serve as a member of the Executive Board of UNICEF since 1946, and, once more, we have been able to witness and fully appreciate UNICEF's indispensable work around the world. In Niger, in Afghanistan, in Haiti -to name just a few of the most pressing situations on the ground- UNICEF's presence and work has saved thousands of children's lives during this "year of polycrisis".

For our part, we have always stood ready to support and promote UNICEF's programs, with particular emphasis on Humanitarian Action, wherever needs arise, from the Sahel and the Horn of Africa to Syria and Ukraine.

Recently, we welcomed in Athens the newly appointed Country Representative in Greece, Dr. Ghassan Khalil. We look forward to working closely with him and his team, with a view to further promoting our common vision and goals, including the 5-year Country Program for Greece.

Besides, the Protection of the Rights of the Child is a priority for Greece, both at the national level, through the drafting of our 2nd National Action Plan for Children, and at the international level, while hosting large numbers of unaccompanied minors and refugee children, providing them safety and stability, as well as access to education and health services.

As a member of the Executive Board, we once again commend UNICEF for its dedication, commitment and assistance to the most vulnerable children around the world.

For our part, we will continue in this path, working closely with UNICEF and the Executive Board.

Thank you.