

**Second Regular Session of the UNICEF Executive Board
5 – 7 September 2023**

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**Intervention by the Chair of the Standing Group of National
Committees to Item 4: UNICEF programme cooperation**

Madam President, Executive Director Catherine Russell, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the National Committees for UNICEF, I want to thank Country Offices for submitting such complete and important Country Program Documents. We continue to be inspired by our colleagues who work at the country level to ensure that every child is healthy, educated, protected and respected.

In particular, I want to thank the country teams in Senegal and Togo for recognising in their CPDs the importance of strategic partnerships with National Committees to mobilize resources for their programs.

The CPDs themselves are valuable to us in that they provide strong evidence of the unique needs of children in each country, the commitments of governments to address these needs and UNICEF's unique value proposition in supporting programs that lift the lives of the most vulnerable children. We use this important information to invite our private sector partners to join UNICEF in its mission to deliver results for children. We use it, too, to rally the public in our countries in support of UNICEF and in our advocacy efforts with our governments.

The National Committees have long enjoyed productive relationships with UNICEF country teams across the globe. For instance, they work with us to shape donor proposals to ensure they meet expressed needs and relevant program strategies in

their countries. Country teams also ensure we have the program results data we need to assure our supporters that UNICEF's work is effective and accountable. And they host program visits to give our donors a first-hand view of both the challenges faced by children and the solutions UNICEF and our partners can deliver.

In return, we work hard to develop the private sector resources that are essential to help country offices carry out their work. In fact, in 2022, revenue from National Committees represented 84 percent of UNICEF's total private sector income.

I do want to note that National Committees recognize the vital importance of regular resources to enable Country Offices to achieve all of the goals of the UNICEF Strategic Plan. The CPDs describe the direct correlation between such funds and the ability to deliver results for children. National Committees have been the largest regular resources contributors to UNICEF. In 2022, we delivered 51% of UNICEF's unearmarked funds. We are aware of the overall decline UNICEF is facing in this critical resource and the potential impact on country programs in particular. As a result, we are strengthening our focus on developing new sources of flexible resources.

Beyond resources, the cooperative work of our Country Offices and National Committees help to bring the world together in unique ways by enabling a connection between people in our countries. Also, in developing our advocacy and influence work in our countries, we often learn lessons from the experienced of our colleagues in Country Offices. While children in our respective countries face different realities and problems, they face common ones as well—poverty, inequality, climate change and more. These common problems encourage us to join forces in new and innovative ways.

Again, to our country office colleagues presenting new and updated Country Program Documents, congratulations and thank you. We look forward to working closely with you.

Michael J. Nyenhuis

Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees for UNICEF

President and CEO of UNICEF USA