

U.S. Statement during Agenda Item #4a – Country Programme Documents
Robert Garverick,
Director, U.S. Department of State
New York, NY
September 6, 2023

AS DELIVERED

- The United States welcomes each opportunity to comment on newly proposed CPDs. We submitted our comments on the new CPDs for this session, which UNICEF has published on its website.
- Regarding the topic of the thematic discussion, the United States strongly supports the use of data by governments and international organizations as a tool for assessing the needs of the most vulnerable, prioritizing assistance, designing evidence-based targeted solutions, measuring performance, and adjusting approaches based on lessons learned from the collection, processing, and analysis of high quality and appropriately disaggregated data.
- In doing so, it is critical to address privacy concerns with human rights in mind; help ensure the long-term availability, integrity, and confidentiality of the data; and protect against the unethical use of the data, particularly where it concerns vulnerable populations like children.
- On the other hand, we should also underscore the crucial role of birth registration data, noted in several CPDs. Birth registration rates are low (38% to 53%) in some of the 12 countries with new CPDs. This means that in some instances half or more of a country's children do not have official basic documentation of their birth. Lack of birth registration often denies children access to life-saving healthcare and vital social services, including education. This often impacts children with disabilities and those in marginalized communities the hardest. We

urge UNICEF to persist in its continued advocacy and partnership with governments in prioritizing solutions to this fundamental issue.