



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR PEDRO COMISSÁRIO,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED
NATIONS**

AT

**THE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE FIRST
REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNICEF
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

06 February 2024, (10:00 AM)

Conference Room 1

United Nations

Mr. President,

1. Let me begin by congratulating you, for assuming the Presidency of the Executive Board for 2024. I reiterate Mozambique's full support during your tenure.

2. We also wish to thank the outgoing president, Denmark, for the exemplary leadership demonstrated during its tenure in 2023.

3. We extend our appreciation to Ms. Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director, for her steadfast engagement towards the protection of children at global level.

Mr. President,

4. The year 2023 was marked by a series of crises that had a significant impact on children worldwide. These crises have placed immense pressure on the situation of children, and it is essential that we work together to address them.

5. Armed conflicts, terrorism and violent extremism, combined with poverty, the effects of climate change and of Covid-19 pandemic, have negatively influenced the social and economic environment and increased the vulnerability of children.

6. In many contexts, this was translated in the deterioration of livelihoods and the increase in violations of children's rights, including basic rights such as of life,

health and education, that are at the core of UNICEF's mandate.

7. It is against this backdrop that we welcome the outstanding role that UNICEF has played in supporting countries to improve their response to these growing crises.
8. From emergency relief to structural assistance, UNICEF has managed to mobilize partnerships to support countries in building national capacity to address, in a sustainable manner, the main challenges faced by children.
9. We encourage UNICEF to redouble its efforts to this endeavour, while recognizing the increasing challenges, particularly in resource mobilization.

Mr. President,

10. Mozambique has a long history of cooperation with UNICEF, dating back to the 70s. Based on our experience, we would like to share some lessons learned that have helped us strengthen our action towards the protection of children:

11. First, while implementing programs, it is important to ensure ownership and capacity building at national and local level. This is the most sustainable approach to induce the necessary transformative changes, toward the improvement of the situation of children on the ground.

12. Second, coordination is key. Whether in delivering emergency assistance

programs or development programs, coordination with government authorities, international partners, including other United Nations agencies, it is essential to avoid duplication of efforts, in order to maximize the impact of the actions undertaken.

13. The concept of “delivering as one” must be implemented by all, at all levels.

14. In concluding, Mr. President, we share the Executive Director's view that we must take advantage of the processes under preparation at the United Nations, such as the Summit of the Future and COP 29, and influence so that children's issues receive the necessary attention they deserve.

I thank you.