

Executive Board of UNICEF

First Regular Session 2024

Item 11: Oral update on the work of the National Committees for UNICEF

February 7, 2024, New York

Thank you Mr. President,

I deliver this joint statement on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States of America, Spain, Switzerland and my own country Austria.

We thank the Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees, Mr. Michael Nyenhuis for the oral update on the work of UNICEF's National Committees.

As members and observers of the UNICEF Executive Board we value the important contribution of National Committees to UNICEF's work. The 33 National Committees are a unique feature and dedicated voice of UNICEF. Last year, National Committees were the major contributor of private sector resources to UNICEF. National Committees have also contributed again the largest share of UNICEF's regular resources income.

In a climate of stagnating regular resources compared to ear-marked funding, the National Committees' yearly contributions to the regular resources' income are becoming indeed more important. . The contributions of National Committees allow UNICEF to allocate funding where it is most needed and to meet the needs and promote respect for the rights of all children.

National Committees work with a wide range of actors such as governments, children and youth activists, companies, entrepreneurs, foundations and civil society. In addition to the important financial contributions of National Committees to the budget and work of UNICEF, National Committees play an important role in advocating for children's rights and increasing visibility in high incomes countries for UNICEF's work worldwide. Especially with Official Development Assistance being under pressure in several countries, the National Committees can play an important role in influencing the debate in these countries regarding the importance of ODA, the role of the UN as

well as of course the work of UNICEF. It is important that the National Committees get the information, trust and space to fulfil this role, since this will ultimately lead to more impact for children.

Given their critical role for the organization, we would welcome yearly updates of the National Committees by the Chair of the Standing Group in form of a standing item. Regular updates help us to better understand the National Committees' role in testing new and innovative approaches to fundraising and to increase our knowledge about innovative and alternative financing opportunities, as well as review associated risks. We would also welcome more frequent informal discussions with the National Committees between EB sessions to tap more systematically into the National Committees' wealth of experience and expertise.

QUESTIONS

“Could you please provide more examples of successful programmes led by National Committees in partnership with their governments?”

“We support the important role played by National Committees in driving efforts to accelerate innovative and alternative financing solutions for children and would be happy if you could you elaborate on some new and innovative approaches to funding that have or will been tested in high income countries in line with the PFP work plan for 2024?”

“What do you as National Committees need from UNICEF to ensure you can fulfil the important advocacy role that you have in your countries?”

“We would be grateful to learn more about the allocation of funding raised by National Committees. Does all the funding raised by National Committees go to UNICEF HQ and then allocated based on needs; or does the individual National Committee decide where to direct the funds?”

In conclusion, we look forward to continuing our engagement with UNICEF National Committees on how to leverage the National Committees' partnership model and innovation capacities to deliver results for children globally.