



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



First Regular Session of UNICEF's Executive Board
Item 6: Update on UNICEF humanitarian action
New York, 7 February 2024

President,

Madame Executive Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with an update on UNICEF's humanitarian action that Greece was able to support and contribute this past year. 2023 had also been a year in which we had the privilege to serve as a member of UNICEF's Executive Board.

Greece has a long-standing cooperation with the Fund, established already in 1947 with an on-the-ground partnership that lasted for more than two decades. The launching in 2020 of a UNICEF Country Office in Athens is a new milestone in our shared history and an initiative highly acknowledged by both Greek public and private institutions that are engaged with the Protection of the Rights of the Child.



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UNICEF's Country Office is currently closely collaborating with various Greek government interlocutors on issues that include the protection and education of refugee and migrant children, inclusion of children with disabilities in all aspects of society and education, in addressing child poverty, obesity and mortality, violence in schools and child cyber bullying.

Another significant initiative is the current implementation of the first UNICEF Country Program for Greece, which supports the execution of existing national plans for children and builds towards meeting jointly agreed targets by 2026.

At the same time, Greece remains a staunch supporter of UNICEF's programs worldwide. While our humanitarian assistance through the Fund focused in 2022 to the alleviation of adversity of war-torn children in Ukraine, as well as those in the protracted Syrian conflict, our financial contribution in 2023 supported UNICEF's efforts to tackle the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa.

I am glad to announce today our newest decision to contribute to the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal on Haiti and help UNICEF reach the most vulnerable, crisis-affected children of the country.



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President,

In the current global landscape of widespread conflict and insecurity, it is essential that major pillars of the UN system like the Children's Fund, unwaveringly continue to provide humanitarian assistance, comfort and a much-needed sense of stability to all the children in need, whatever the cause of suffering.

On this basis, Greece aims to further enhance its advocacy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, if elected this June as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the 2025 – 2026 term.

We have included the 'Children in Armed Conflict' agenda as one of our UNSC candidacy's priorities, aspiring to promote, during our tenure, our principled position of protecting and promoting children's rights and eliminating all forms of violence and abuse against them.

Towards this end, we wish to actively promote in the coming period strong synergies with international partners that consider and give voice to children's actual needs.

I thank you.