



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini
to the United Nations**

**Remarks on behalf of the Kingdom of Eswatini at the
Executive Board's First – Regular Session for 2021 during
Consideration of Eswatini UNICEF Country Programme Document**

Virtually, 11 February 2021

**Delivered by: His Excellency, Melusi M. Masuku, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative**

Mr President,
Distinguished Members of the Executive Board

Let me begin by thanking Mr Mohammed Falk for his comprehensive presentation of the Country Programme Document of the Kingdom of Eswatini for the period 2021-2025.

May I also extend our sincere gratitude to all stakeholders who participated in the consultative process that led to the formulation of the Country Programme Document leading to its final adoption by the Executive Board.

Mr President,

Allow me from the onset, to state that the Country Programme Document is in full alignment with Eswatini's priorities and objectives including national commitments set out in Vision 2022 and the National Development Plan. The CPD provides a solid base with which Government together with development partners will propel the country towards achievement of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Mr President,

Eswatini has been experiencing a decline in foreign development assistance due to its classification as a lower-middle income country, unfortunately, such classification is not reflective of the situation on the ground, and with a rampant Covid 19 pandemic and the recent cyclone Eloise and a sluggish economy, the situation can only get worse.

Hence we recognize and profoundly appreciate the commitment advocated by UNICEF to assist the Country in scaling-up resource mobilization efforts to facilitate implementation of the objectives of the CPD within the specified time frame.

We are grateful for the technical and financial support provided by UNICEF within the framework of the UN system response plan.

The Kingdom of Eswatini commits to work with UNICEF on a number of strategic impact areas such as maternal health, water and sanitation, education and protection of children from violence and abuse encapsulated in the new Country Programme Document.

Mr President, allow me to extend our sincere gratitude to the members of the Executive Board for their consideration and approval of the CPD for the Kingdom of Eswatini.

I thank you Mr President