



PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Item 8 - Oral update on UNICEF research activities and priorities in this
regard**

Second Regular Session

09 September 2020

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Italy welcomes this very informative presentation about UNICEF's activities and priorities on research and evidence creation. Noting that this discussion represents a first time for the Board, we wish to commend the very valuable work carried out by the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti in Florence, for over more than 30 years of activities.

Back in 1988, on the occasion of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Italian Government proposed UNICEF establish in a 600-years old landmark “Spedale degli Innocenti” in Florence, “arguably the oldest continuously operating children’s care in the world”, its research center, with a mandate to contribute to an “emerging global ethic for children”. Since then, as noted in the presentation, Italy has supported UNICEF Innocenti’s vision and activities with stable and flexible funding, building up a strong, multi-dimensional and strategic partnership.

Over these decades, Innocenti has produced a remarkable set of cutting-edge knowledge and research for UNICEF and the world, which contributed effectively to ensure and improve children care, welfare and empowerment. We are aware that its products and evidence have been instrumental to address and orient UNICEF’s action globally and on the ground and we hope that this is going to continue in the future, even in a smoother, more visible and structured way.

Just last week, UNICEF Innocenti has launched the worldwide “UNICEF Report: A world of Influence - Understanding what shapes child well-being in rich countries”, which had a global echo on policies which work for children in high income Countries. Another key initiative has been the “Leading Mind Conference”, an original platform focusing on mental health of children and young people in the most innovative way.

Mr. President, we call on UNICEF to ensure that these unique products are well considered in UNICEF's short, medium and long-term planning: Knowledge is only valuable where actually and meaningfully utilized in program delivery.

We request UNICEF to ensure adequate dissemination of UNICEF products and initiatives in this domain, including within UNICEF Offices globally, in order to support their meaningful integration in UNICEF activities and programming, in line with the Change Strategies of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan and taking this domain into proper consideration for the next strategic plan.

We call on Member States to engage more with UNICEF Innocenti, to know more about its activities and effectively partner with them, not only to ensure adequate financial resources but also to benefit from mutual partnership and convening.

You can count on our continued support and we look forward to partner with more Countries in increasingly important area of work, fully exploiting the greater potential of UNICEF Innocenti at this critical times.

Thank you.