

Canada's National Statement
Annual Session 2021 of the UNICEF Executive Board

Mister President, Executive Director, Esteemed Colleagues,

Allow me to begin by congratulating UNICEF on its 75th anniversary this year. We recognize your tireless efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including your work with the COVAX Facility and standing up UNICEF's ACT-A Supplies Financing Facility. Canada is pleased to be supporting the Therapeutics Pillar of the SFF, which is proving to be nimble and effective in its ability to ready COVID-19 supplies and respond to country requests efficiently.

Overall, Canada is pleased with UNICEF's performance in 2020 in both development and humanitarian contexts. We welcome UNICEF's work to advance progress on results under the five goal areas and strengthening organizational performance despite considerable challenges due to the pandemic.

We appreciate the consultative process to date to develop the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and welcome its gender-transformative ambitions. We challenge you to accelerate efforts to address the root causes of gender inequalities, including barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and dedicate resources to building gender expertise, capacity and ownership within UNICEF.

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Nous remarquons avec inquiétude les allégations récurrentes d'exploitation et d'abus sexuels commis dans le cadre de la lutte contre le virus Ébola en RDC. Nous nous attendons à ce que UNICEF intensifie la mise en œuvre de mesures préventives, assure un accès facilité aux mécanismes de rapportage et de soutien - axés sur la victime - et redouble ses efforts afin de mettre un terme définitif à l'impunité des auteurs d'exploitation et d'abus sexuels.

Il est essentiel de continuer sur la lancée de la réforme du système des Nations Unies pour le développement. Nous comptons sur UNICEF et sur ses représentants-pays et régionaux pour demeurer des alliés forts et compétents dans la mise en œuvre de la réforme.

In line with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, we urge you to: better align programming cycles - Country Development Frameworks should be derived from UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks ; continue to advance reform commitments to ensure harmonized, efficient and robust policy, programmatic and corporate approaches – this includes joint programming; continue to seek opportunities to work in partnership with the IFIs; finally, strengthen efforts to ensure that gender equality, diversity and

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disability inclusion, climate action, biodiversity and the environment are at the center of your efforts.

You can continue to count on Canada as a strong voice of support for your mandate and work. Thank you.