UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNUAL SESSION 2021 1 June 2021 New York

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ENKHBOLD VORSHILOV, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS (on the agenda item 2, 3)

Mr. President, Madam Executive Director, Distinguished Members and Observers of the Executive Board,

At the outset, I'd like to thank Ms. Henrieta H.Fore, the UNICEF Executive Director, for her comprehensive statement.

My delegation strongly supports UNICEF's dual humanitarian and development mandate and welcomes the progress specified in the annual report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. We commend UNICEF for the excellent performance in a yet another unusual and challenging year.

We appreciate UNICEF's contribution and concrete gains achieved in strengthening the UNDS to ensure that it delivers efficiently and effectively on the ground, notably with regards to the response and recovery from the pandemic. UNICEF's key role within the COVAX facility in procurement and transportation of vaccines, supplies and equipment across 92 low and middle-income countries was exemplary.

We also commend UNICEF's assistance in scaling up and strengthening the national prevention efforts around gender-based violence and remote learning in line with the QCPR's latest guidance.

Mr. President,

One of the priorities of the Government of Mongolia is digital transition and youth employment and empowerment and leave no one behind, especially people with disabilities and NEET (not in employment, education or training. In this regard, I agree with the Executive Director's conviction that UNICEF's new Strategic plan will serve as a necessary accelerator of the progress for children, young people and their communities. My delegation fully supports UNICEF's approach to make sure that digital revolution and remote learning do not widen divides but offers more opportunity and confidence to every child and youth, especially girls. UNICEF's flagship initiatives GIGA and Generation Unlimited will continue to be useful tools to achieve this goal. I am confident that UNICEF would redouble its contribution to accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable development goals and build back better and greener. The three flagship initiatives under discussion among other UN agencies "Reimagining Education", "Water security for All" and "No time to waste" certainly show the efforts made by UNICEF in this regard.

During this session, we would like to hear more about the innovative work of UNICEF such as the rapidly growing Innovation Fund, UNICEF's CryptoFund as well as UNICEF's efforts in transitioning its ICT division to lower cost locations.

My delegation looks forward to continuing the fruitful cooperation with UNICEF and express our strong commitment to protecting the rights of children and providing equal education and employment opportunities for all young people in line with the QCPR guidelines.

I thank you.