

UNICEF Executive Board

Annual Session 2021

Item 3

National Statement by Germany

- Dear colleagues, members of the Executive Board, esteemed UNICEF staff, Mme Executive Director,
- We are a year and a half into the pandemic and it quickly morphed into a polypandemic, with severe secondary effects worldwide. UNICEF has stepped up and delivered. Putting its field presence, advocacy power and dual mandate to best use, UNICEF is there for the most affected.
- Germany has been at UNICEF's side, providing significant extra core and programme funds. Now more than ever is the time for global solidarity. The drop in Regular Resources is therefore very concerning. We urge all States to prioritize the most vulnerable – both domestically and globally - in their response to the pandemic, and, going forward, when planning and financing their recovery programmes.
- With UNICEF's Draft Strategic Plan before us, there are crucial lessons to be drawn from our current global situation. We are encouraged to see that UNICEF is focusing on driving catalytic change. Unless we realize structural and systemic change, humanity's existential challenges will not be overcome.

- The pandemic has shown that UNICEF can help drive such change through its normative mandate. Evidence-based policy advice and advocacy on addressing the major threats children face will be crucial. Staff capacities and programming priorities need to reflect this ambition.
- Existing conflicts and escalating climate risks have been exacerbated by the pandemic's impact. The OECD Fragility report shows deteriorations in all dimensions of fragility across global hotspots. This calls for reinforced efforts in building systems and in strengthening community actors and local partners. COVID has shown that this is how we build resilience to future shocks. A prime example is building shock-responsive social protection which specifically supports women and girls in their role as agents of change. Germany is partnering with UNICEF and WFP as well with the World Bank to move this forward in the Sahel, for example. We are thereby also following advice from a recent advisory board to the German Government on the root causes of displacement.
- As risks increase and overlap, putting the HDP Nexus into practice is crucial. Recent evaluations on the nexus and on WASH in crises have presented strong recommendations for further improvements to UNICEF structures and processes. In addition, we encourage UNICEF to strengthen the dynamic use of comprehensive analysis on risks, including sound climate and conflict assessments. Resilience needs functioning communities, so we encourage

UNICEF to do-more-good by actively supporting social cohesion throughout its programming.

- UNICEF will not succeed on its own. Galvanizing youth and their voices is a critical component. Working with governments and businesses to ensure that child rights are respected along their supply chains must be a part of UNICEF's strategy. And crucially, partnerships with key sister agencies have to be at the heart of UNICEF's engagement. Using collaborative advocacy and advisory strength will more effectively drive change. Moving from complementary programming to designing and implementing truly joint approaches at field level will guarantee lasting impact.
- Ms. Fore, I am convinced that UNICEF creates this positive, lasting impact for children by being ambitious, forward-looking and continuously learning. Germany will therefore remain a steadfast supporter.