

Item 8 - Global evaluation of UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene programming in protracted crises, 2014–2019: Summary (E/ICEF/2021/20) and the Management response to the global evaluation of UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene programming in protracted crises, 2014–2019 (E/ICEF/2021/21)

Executive Board, Annual Session, 01 – 04 June 2021

Start

Madame President,

Executive Director,

Distinguished delegates,

The United Kingdom supports the joint statement delivered by Finland and additionally see three specific opportunities:

First, regarding recommendations 2 and 5; we welcome and encourage UNICEF to continue investing in research connecting health, WASH, and nutrition. It is children, women, and people with specific needs that constitute the majority of those affected by crisis, as well as having the greatest WASH needs. We agree on the importance of advancing WASH in schools and menstrual hygiene management. We also note that access to domestic facilities remains a challenge in many contexts and, in addition to rolling out technical guidance, encourage UNICEF to undertake a systematic, country level review to assess barriers.

Second, on recommendation 7; we recognise the strength of the *Water Under Fire* series. Programmes of this nature are complex, operating across humanitarian, development, and political levels, involving International Financial Institutions and public-private partnerships. In addition to the actions planned, we suggest including dedicated staff at Regional and Country Office level to foster these partnerships.

Third, regarding recommendation 8; we ask whether the actions as set out in the evaluation will ensure national clusters and sectors meet their core functions? The broad and complex nature of coordination roles is recognised as a career path requiring support in the recent humanitarian review. How can UNICEF ensure the necessary coordination capacity exists within Regional and Country Offices?

In closing, I wish to thank the UNICEF team and partners for their continued dedication to meeting the needs of children around the world.

End