

Statement by Morocco under item 11

Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank Mrs. Suleiman, Mrs. Narayan and Mr. Hastie for the updates presented.

Morocco remains supportive of this agenda in UNICEF and across the UN system.

In this regard, we would like to underline a sentence from the report: *Quote* “The work of UNICEF to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct, and to improve its organizational culture, does not come at the expense of its mandate for children, but in service to it ». *end of quote*

Indeed, those who serve UNICEF around the world, whether in offices or on the ground, are such dedicated staff who deserve not only our gratitude, but also our support and protection, particularly, assuring for them a safe, respectful and inclusive workplace environment, where sexual harassment, discrimination, and abuse of authority have no place.

Here, I would like to thank Mrs. Fore’s personal commitment to zero tolerance towards all forms of sexual misconduct at every level of the organization.

- Regarding the progress made so far, we welcome the multiple trainings, dialogues, and awareness raising programs aimed at enabling a better “Organizational culture ».
- We take note with satisfaction of the positive results achieved so far, as well as of the increase in investigation capacity.
- The “Organizational Culture” takes time, and in this regards, we invite UNICEF to continue working with Member States and other stakeholders to exchange on ways to further strengthen “the speak-up and listen up culture”, and to overcome the issues of “Lack of confidence/trust in systems and outcomes and fear of retaliation”.
- We welcome the progress achieved in promoting gender parity in staffing within UNICEF, becoming a more gender-sensitive organization. We would like to hear more about “staff perceptions concerning progress on gender equity” as referred to in the report.
- We totally agree with the fact that gender inequality and discrimination and gender-based violence are amongst the fundamental drivers of sexual exploitation and abuse, that need holistic and long term gender-transformative programming. We encourage UNICEF to continue its endeavor in this regards.

- Finally, as the world is recovering from COVID-19 and more staff re-joining offices, we invite UNICEF to continue to improve vetting and training against sexual harassment, discrimination, and abuse of authority and to double efforts to ensure access to quality victim assistance as a programmatic priority in the transition and post COVID area.