

**Statement by TURKEY**

**Delivered by Alara Aydil, Counselor, Turkish Mission to the UN**

**UNICEF Executive Board: First Regular Session 2022, (8–11 February 2022)**

**Item 2: Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF**

**General Debate**

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, New York**

I would like to thank to our new Executive Director for her opening statement.

Turkey also joins others in congratulating you on your appointment, Madame Executive Director and welcoming you to the UNICEF Family.

We also congratulate all UNICEF staff on another year of exceptional service in addressing the many challenges that the children are facing today, in particular the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected them the most.

In that sense, Madame Director, You are taking this position at a very crucial moment in the organisation's history.

Turkey has a long and strong partnership with UNICEF for the benefit of children in my country, as well as regionally and globally. We are proud that this partnership has strengthened and deepened over the years.

For Turkey, UNICEF continues to be a key partner in our efforts to ensure that Syrian children who are under temporary protection in Turkey benefit from quality and inclusive education.

UNICEF is also a significant contributor to the UN cross-border humanitarian aid, which is sent to northwest Syria via Turkey.

UN's cross border operation is a lifeline for more than four million people, mostly women and children, who are in need of humanitarian assistance on a daily basis in northwest Syria.

Turkey looks forward to the continuation and increase of its cooperation with UNICEF in meeting the COVID-19 related increasing humanitarian needs in the region, including COVID-19 and childhood vaccines.

Turkey remains to be a reliable partner for UNICEF and committed to support its tireless efforts in addressing the challenges together.

Thank you.