

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations
Statement of Rwanda at the First regular session of the UNICEF Board

February 08, 2022

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group and wishes to make a few comments in our national capacity

Mr. President,

First let me begin by Congratulating you and the bureau on your election

Rwanda looks forward to working with you and your team during our term

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Executive Director of UNICEF, **Catherine M. Russell**. You have our full support to carry out the critical leadership role of UNICEF.

Also, we wanted to thank Ms. Henrietta Fore for her dedication and for successfully leading UNICEF.

Mr. President

We are taking the floor to underscore our support for the Important work of this organization

Last year this essential institution celebrated its 75th anniversary. For those years, UNICEF's work has been remarkable around the world.

Rwanda, as a program country, we have seen what the organization has achieved for children and young people over the decades. In Rwanda, UNICEF plays an important role in supporting national systems such as the Community Health Workers, the Teacher Management Information System, the Friends of the Family child protection volunteers, social protection programmes, and WASH financing. We are very much pleased to partner with UNICEF on the country level and here at the United Nations.

We applaud and appreciate the work of UNICEF supporting the delivery of vaccines through the COVAX and Rwanda has experienced excellent collaboration with UNICEF on data analysis, vaccine and syringe stock forecasting, logistics, etc.

We further applaud and appreciate the ways in which UNICEF has adapted and innovated to meet new challenges, especially during this current pandemic, and believe it serves as a model for other UN agencies to follow.

Mr. President

As we all know, this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic had and will continue to have an enormous impact on children around the world. It has changed our world in ways we could never have imagined when it started two years ago.

We believe UNICEF will play a vital role as the world recovers from the catastrophic effects of COVID-19, and Rwanda pledges to be a partner to this journey.

Mr. President

Lastly Rwanda would like to emphasize two points:

- **First** For any organization to thrive and meet today's challenges, old approaches must be re-evaluated and replaced with approaches that improve how services are delivered, made accessible, and tracked, particularly in developing countries.
- **Second**, as UNICEF continues contributing to a unified response to COVID. We must ensure that a vaccine is delivered fairly and equitably around the world

Thank you!