

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Zsuzsanna Horváth,
Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations
on the occasion of the UNICEF Executive Board First Regular Session
Agenda Item 2: “2. Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and
the Executive Director of UNICEF”**

8 February 2022

Mr President-elect of the Executive Board,
Madam Executive Director,
Distinguished Members and Observers of the Board,

As the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations, I would like to **welcome the President of the Board**, as well as the incoming Vice Presidents, on the occasion of the start of their mandate.

I would like to extend my **warm congratulations to Her Excellency Ms Catherine Russell upon her appointment as the new Executive Director of UNICEF**. Madam Executive Director, let me reaffirm Hungary’s full support in to you in your important mandate. As a long-standing and steadfast supporter of UNICEF, we look forward to continue our fruitful cooperation with the organisation throughout your tenure.

On this occasion, **we extend our sincere appreciation to former Executive Director H.E. Ms Henrietta Fore** for her inspiring leadership and tireless efforts in bringing transformative change into the lives of children, everywhere.

We welcome UNICEF’s leading role in the efforts to provide vaccines for all, and acknowledge the organisation’s efforts in the framework of the COVAX facility in this regard. Hungary’s contribution to UNICEF through its multi-annual Global Thematic Fund, as well as to the UNICEF Global Shared Services Centre in Budapest are testament to our commitment to the rights and well-being of children around the world.

We will continue our constructive engagement and support as observers of the Board.

Thank you.