Second Session of the UNICEF Executive Board
Tuesday, 08 September 2020
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Intervention by the Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees to Item 14: Private Fundraising and Partnerships: Financial report for the year ended 31 December 2019

Over the past 5 years it has been my honour to represent the family of National Committees before UNICEF’s Executive Board. My term as Chair of the Standing Group ends next month, and so today will be my last time to do this.

They say it is good to leave on a high note, and so, despite the pandemic, this is a good time to leave. Because, when I consider the 2019 results presented by PFP, I feel proud of by the work of my National Committee colleagues. Last year, as the global fundraising market for NGOs shrank, private sector income to UNICEF increased by more than 3%. Individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations and others – they trust UNICEF and they trust the National Committees

This trend has continued into the pandemic. UNICEF is a trusted name, a trusted organization, and in this time of uncertainty, people want trust. And the partnership between National Committees and UNICEF is the basis for this trust. It is a partnership based on UNICEF’s excellent and unparalleled work for children around the world, and on our ability to fully represent UNICEF in 33 countries and mobilize the voluntary support of millions of our fellow citizens who believe in children’s rights and know that supporting UNICEF is the best way to ensure those rights are fulfilled. That is why, when many international development organizations are seeing declines in private sector fundraising, we are not.
Our partnership works. It can be complicated for a multilateral organization to have a key part of its family be made up of members of civil society, (and it can be hard for civil society organizations like ours to be part of a multilateral agency), but the numbers speak for themselves. And when I say numbers, I don’t only mean our fundraising successes, but also the advocacy successes for children which are described in the PFP report. As the report says, National Committees “provide consistency and impact over time.”

Our UNICEF/ National Committee partnership is unique. This partnership brings together the best of all worlds - public and private sectors, tax money and philanthropic money, public servants and public-spirited individuals – to build a better future for children. Our different approaches make us stronger, and although I will leave the Standing Group, in my ongoing capacity with UNICEF Canada I look forward to seeing how my colleagues on the Standing Group and in UNICEF continue to grow and develop our partnership so that we can continue to do our utmost for every child.

David Morley

Chair of the Standing Group