Thank you, Madame President.

I would like to thank UNICEF Executive Director for her statement. We express our appreciation to UNICEF staff around the world that continue working with vision, hope and optimism, as rightly pointed out by ED Henrietta Ford.

My country would like to thank all the support UNICEF provides at the national and international levels in protecting children in different contexts, particularly the multidimensional response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are concerned about the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on children and adolescents on their well-being, development, and protection, including their access to education, food, safety, and health, particularly those in the most marginalized and vulnerable situations.

In the actual context of the pandemic, we must recognize that developing countries are clearly at disadvantage when it comes to science, technology and innovation mechanisms. El Salvador has been constantly advocating for further cooperation in order to lower the gap between developed and developing countries. In this pandemic, we have seen how technology has allowed children to continue learning, with the support of their parents. Internet access has been crucial in this sense. Therefore, we commend UNICEF’s effort to improve remote learning tools, and to protect children from cyber bullying and other online threats.

We would like to thank UNICEF for its tremendous support through the 2016-2020 Country Program, which aims to strengthening our national efforts for the universal effective exercise of children’s rights
and focuses on protection against violence, inclusive education, a healthy start in life and social inclusion.

It is our priority to continue focusing efforts on early childhood, since we are convinced that early childhood development is not only essential to setting children on a solid foundation for future learning, but it is also a powerful intervention to reduce violence, and promote peace. In this regard, El Salvador has recently developed a National Strategy for a Comprehensive Early Childhood Development and programs focused on breastfeeding and online attention for all families with children and adolescents during this time of pandemic.

I would like to recognize the assistance that UNICEF is providing to our country during these challenging times.

Before concluding, I would like to thank you Ambassador Rabab for your leadership and commitment as Chair of the UNICEF Executive Board.

I thank you.