1. Thank you for giving me the floor Madam President, and thank you to Madam Executive Director for her heartfelt remarks and updates, and for describing the many actions and initiatives taken by UNICEF to contribute to global efforts to recover better from the Covid-19 pandemic and reach the SDGs in this Decade of Action, even when those efforts have come at a terrible cost. Please convey our support to the UNICEF workers and their families risking their lives in the exercise of the most noble of duties, the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

2. There is absolutely no doubt of the global positive impact that UNICEF has had through its excellent programming and most recently through its collaboration with the greater system for a coordinated and coherent response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We agree that the paradigm shift caused by the current crisis will also represent a shift in how UNICEF will need to approach programming, delivery, follow-up and review, that must be reflected in the next strategic plan as Madam Fore well mentioned. For us, this means including more on adaptation to be better prepared to address new and emerging issues, but also more emphasis on investing in resilience and in structural aspects like strengthening the health infrastructure, institutional capacity and using transparency and accountability measures.

3. In Guatemala, the Fund’s work has been outstanding and we believe it is uniquely positioned to contribute to our national priorities because its core mandates and actions directly address both the immediate health emergency caused by the pandemic, and to our medium and long-term goals, particularly those related to hunger and malnutrition. UNICEF’s core mission of promoting and protecting the right of the child goes to the heart of the main priority of the Government of achieving food security and nutrition for the entire population, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups like women and girls, indigenous populations, migrants, and people with disabilities.

4. In order to build back better, we must break the pervasive systemic vicious cycles that perpetuate poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, that represents a complex development problem requiring structural changes at the global and national levels. The root causes of these problems must be tackled in a coordinated and coherent manner with all relevant stakeholders.

5. Before concluding, I take this opportunity to thank Ms. Hai Kyung Jun, Secretary of the Board, who is working on her last Session as Secretary. We appreciate the hard work put in by Ms. Jun over many sessions and her unwavering support to the Member States throughout her time serving in that capacity. The very best to her in her next role.

I thank you.