ITEM 5. UNICEF PROGRAMME COOPERATION

b) Extensions of ongoing country programmes
Thank you, Excellency, for allowing me to address the Executive Board today.

At the outset, I would like to convey my CDA’s apologies for not being able to be here among us due to another commitment.

Chair, Dear Members of the Executive Board,

Madagascar would like to acknowledge the positive results already elaborated by previous speakers since the beginning of this session and also shown on the last UNICEF annual report released recently in June.

Madagascar and UNICEF have worked together for several decades, for the thriving of number of mothers and children. We fully appreciate this longstanding partnership, strengthened lastly throughout the current CPD 2015-2019. Now, we can attest of the significant efforts in terms of implementation of our national policies on child protection against violence, abuse and exploitation, early child marriage. Joint activities have also been spread throughout the country in the field of water and sanitation as well as social policy and social protection.

Indeed, this cooperation has been even more than reinforced during the current pandemic. On this point, my delegation would like to express recognition to actions on the ground where UNICEF’s timely assistance has allowed health system to be provided with more medical supplies and equipments, more education infrastructures to be sanitized, and basic services for pregnant women and young children kept available in local medical centers.
Within the upcoming six-month extension of our CPD, the country and UNICEF will work on how to better harness and align the future CPD with the ongoing UNDAF and to ensure a smooth transition towards the future UNSDCF.

Last month, the government, hand-in-hand with the Country-team led by the Office of the Resident Coordinator, engaged with stakeholders in a series of consultations of which the objective is to design and to develop an inclusive and relevant policy document in line with our Plan Emergence of Madagascar 2020-2023.

This alignment and transition process will be key phase for both parties in order to undergo operational actions guided by national priorities and aiming at a meaningful improvement of the lives of our children.

To conclude, let me thank all members of the Executive Board for their supports to the work of UNICEF. We are also grateful to all its partners. We remain ensured that the extension of the current CDP will pave the way for tailored on-the-ground actions that the future cooperation framework will further underpin.

Thank you for your attention.