Joint Statement

Second Regular Session 2020 of the
UNICEF Executive Board: agenda item 6
- Structured Funding Dialogue

Thank you Madam President,

I deliver this statement, on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Mongolia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, The Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and my own country, Sweden. A full version will be made available on Papersmart.

Madam President,

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the essential role that un-earmarked core funding plays when it comes to the ability to quickly react and respond to unforeseen events. We welcome the efforts made to improve visibility and recognition of donors providing core funding during the COVID-19 response and call upon further efforts in this regard. As member states, we underline our commitments of the Funding Compact, and reaffirm to join these efforts for further allocation and promotion of core- and flexible resources.

We understand that the response to COVID-19 will most likely affect the implementation of the strategic plan. We urge UNICEF to assess which outcomes will be most impacted and provide regular updates to the Executive Boards on the steps taken to mitigate the negative effects. We also welcome your thoughts on the continued financing within the next two years and in light of the current challenges in fundraising.

We appreciate the efforts UNICEF has undertaken in collaboration with UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP to improve the structured funding dialogues, strengthening reporting on Funding Compact implementation and engaging the respective Executive Boards on this matter. Looking ahead, we anticipate a forward-looking approach that encourages the Executive Boards to engage in an interactive
dialogue that informs and guide funding decisions and implementation of the strategic plan at an aggregated level, helping to ensure that the budget is fully funded and that allocations are aligned with priorities.

Madam President, allow me to share a few questions from our part:

First, we are concerned that the **regular resources have declined** from 23 to 21 percent of total funding to UNICEF. We would welcome more information on efforts taken in increasing the number of donors to regular resources and challenges faced in this regard. Relatedly, we welcome the fact that 13% of UNICEF’s non-core resources for development were channeled through inter-agency pooled funds. We believe that **innovative solutions** can address some of the challenges with regard to the quality resource gap and are looking forward to the presentation of UNICEF’s strategy on innovative financing in 2021.

However, we note with concern the increase in **cost-recovery** waivers granted by UNICEF and, more importantly, the increase in financial loss resulting from these, in 2019. We would welcome more information on the background for this increase in waivers.

Second, we encourage UNICEF to increase its share of development related expenditures through **joint activities** and to engage in active dialogue with other entities of the UNDS, in particular UNDCO, to further improve the **operational definition of the indicator** “development expenditures delivered through joint activities”. We are interested in hearing how and when UNICEF plans to strive towards the harmonization of this and other indicators of Funding Compact implementation.

Third, we commend UNICEF for demonstrating efficiency and increasing the proportion of **resources for programme activities**. How does UNICEF plan to move towards more core, thematic and programmatic funding? We would be especially interested in how UNICEF plans to achieve the 15%-target in **thematic contributions** until 2021, given its recent decrease to 7%? Relatedly, we are interested to hear how UNICEF is ensuring sufficient resources are allocated to upholding UNICEF’s **normative mandate and functions** such as oversight, audit and evaluation.
Lastly, meeting the commitments of the Funding Compact is as important as ever before. We would like to reiterate the importance of ensuring CPDs are derived from **UNSDCFs** including through agencies’ close work with UNDCO. Finally, we thank UNICEF for the comprehensive reporting on funding compact implementation as part of the Structured Funding Dialogue, and commend the significant progress UNICEF has made when it comes to meeting the targets.

Thank you Madam President