

Second Regular Session
of the 2022 UNICEF Executive Board

Statement by Ambassador Hyunjoo OH,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN
10:00-13:00, Tuesday, 6 September 2022

Madam President,

At the outset, my congratulations go to you, Madam President, on your assumption of the Presidency of the UNICEF Executive Board. And I take this opportunity to thank Executive Director Russell for her comprehensive briefing, as well as voice my appreciation to UNICEF staff for their uninterrupted service and support to children around the world at this critical juncture.

(Before beginning my national statement, my delegation would like to align itself to the joint statement delivered earlier by --.)

Indeed, just as Executive Director Russell mentioned in her opening statement, children, the most vulnerable among us, are now faced with the grave and overlapping challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, food and energy insecurity and the war in Ukraine, as well as the ongoing climate crisis. This reality demands that we collectively work to tackle these obstacles and forge a brighter future for the world's children.

In this light, my delegation would like to briefly highlight the following three points.

First, my delegation commends UNICEF's continued commitment to resolving the learning crisis, keeping in mind that it harms children today and impacts their life outcomes and future economic development. Because this situation and its causes are different and no one size fits all, more customised measures are needed to address the root causes. In this regard, I would like to ask what strategy UNICEF has made to provide more customized solutions in various circumstances.

Second, the Republic of Korea appreciates UNICEF's efforts to support routine immunization, noting future steps to access remote areas, for example, through

vaccinating high-priority groups, such as front-line health workers. My delegation would like to underline that preventing vaccination hesitancy is as fundamental as tackling accessibility to improve vaccination rates. According to UNICEF's vaccine hesitancy report, it shows us that various countries have different vaccine hesitancy factors and we need to respond accordingly with specific strategy based on the data.

Third, Korea welcomes the self-assessment report on the independence of OAIS, noting with appreciation that UNICEF's efforts to enhance the accountability system to strengthen results- and risk-based performance management and decision making. However, as has been currently witnessed, where one agency's gross misconduct undermines the trust of all agencies under UNDS, we urge UNICEF to enhance peer review and the exchange of best practices with other UN agencies to boost transparency and prevent the reoccurrence of similar misconduct. In addition, we recommend that UNICEF allocate appropriate funds and human resources to improve its internal control and oversight function.

Thank You. /END/