

Agenda Item 5

National statement to be delivered by Anna-Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

Madam President, Madam Executive Director,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by (NL/CH) and would like to make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

Sweden would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report and we commend UNICEF on its record income in 2021. We are pleased to see an increase in the share of regular resources received from the private sector. However, the global situation, combined with high inflation, portends a challenging future. Unfortunately, the report sheds light on the troubling situation as regards the decreasing share of UNICEF's core resources.

The decrease in core resources, seen in the majority of UN funds and programmes, is concerning. We are all aware of the value of these resources for the Organization as regards its ability to act swiftly when needed and to reposition itself in response to needs at the country level. We also know that UNICEF is an organization that works on both immediate crises as well as at the very heart of the long-term development agenda. As the international community we must have sufficient capacity and resources to work on both tracks concurrently.

It is for these exact reasons that Sweden remains steadfast in its extensive core support to UNICEF, as exemplified by our current multi-annual Strategic Partnership Agreement for the years 2022-2025 with a total value of approximately 275 million USD.

But the fact remains that Sweden, together with a few other donors who are respecting the Funding Compact, cannot keep carrying this load indefinitely. In a true spirit of multilateralism, we must find more balanced ways of guaranteeing the effective functioning of our jointly owned institutions, such as UNICEF.

Sweden therefore calls on UNICEF to do its utmost to broaden the base of core donors, and for member states to respond positively. In this context it is important to identify incentives and proper visibility for those member states that, through concrete action and funding, take their responsibility.

Thank you.