



Agenda Item 2
Statement to be delivered by DPR of Denmark Marie-Louise Koch Wegter

Madam President, Madam Executive Director,

First of all, we would like to congratulate Ambassador Maritza Chan on her appointment as President of the Executive Board. We look forward to our continued collaboration and joint efforts towards realizing the rights of every child. (Personally, I would also like to note with appreciation the new gender balance of the Bureau.)

Secondly, let me reiterate to UNICEF staff our deep appreciation for your tireless efforts towards achieving the SDGs for all children. We commend UNICEF's continued response to the Covid-19 pandemic, including through the procurement and delivery of vaccines, while addressing new challenges, including the food security crisis on the Horn of Africa, the war in Ukraine and the global learning crisis.

Quality education, including early childhood education, is a fundamental human right and one of society's great equalizers. Education is crucial for the individual, but also societies at large, as a foundation for tolerance, peace, prosperity and sustainability.

Yet we find ourselves in a situation where more than 1,5 billion children have had their education interrupted by Covid-19. For many students, especially girls and young women, this interruption risks becoming permanent, with severe consequences for their rights, opportunities and future.



We must help children and young people catch up on learning lost during the pandemic, while transforming education systems so that **all** students reach their full potential.

The Transformative Education Summit is a key initiative in this regard and we welcome UNICEF's engagement and leadership in the preparations of the Summit.

As we prepare for the Summit, there is in particular two areas that we would like to emphasize. First of all, gender equality and Comprehensive Sexuality Education have the power to accelerate progress on quality education and the 2030 Agenda. We must ensure that a gender transformative approach is at the centre of our efforts.

As a member of the international School Meals Coalition, Denmark also wishes to emphasize the importance of school meals, especially during the current global food crisis, which increases food insecurity and malnutrition among children in fragile contexts. We commend the collaboration of UNICEF and WFP on nutrition programmes targeting the undernourished

I would also like to thank all UNICEF staff for their important humanitarian contribution. A cornerstone of UNICEF's humanitarian response, whether it be procurement of vaccines or distribution of school kits, is the Supply Division located in Copenhagen. This year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the World's largest humanitarian warehouse. Denmark is very proud to be the host of the UNICEF Supply Division and we are excited to announce that we will also host the new UNICEF Innovation Hub on WASH. Together with the private sector, academia and leading



global experts the innovation hub will deliver innovative solutions to global water, sanitation and hygiene challenges to the benefit of children worldwide.

Madame President let me conclude by reiterating that you can count on our continued support to UNICEF. We look forward to signing a new Multiyear Partnership Agreement in the near future and we look forward to continuing our close collaboration.

Thank you.