

Joint Statement
Second Regular Session 2022 of the
UNICEF Executive Board
- Statement UNICEF Structured Funding Dialogue -

Dear Mr. Vice-President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, the Kingdom of The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, The United States of America, and my own country, Mexico.

The UN Development System finds itself in challenging circumstances. Persistent obstacles related to the COVID-19 pandemic remain, combined with global instability that is exacerbated by various crises around the world. Compounding this are surging inflation rates that are shrinking the real value of donors' contributions and diminishing the actual financial capacity of UNICEF to act. These trends put severe pressure on the UNDS' ability to implement its normative and programmatic work. Adequate resourcing with flexible and predictable multi-year funding is instrumental to support the overall effectiveness of the UNDS. Therefore, as member states, we underline our Funding Compact commitments and stress the need for further allocation and promotion of core- and flexible resources.

Please allow us to make a number of comments in that regard.

First, it is essential that UNICEF's Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2025 remains adequately funded. We commend the increase in overall funding in 2021, but note with concern the relative and absolute decrease in RR funding, especially due to lower public sector RR contributions. We underline the significance of core support for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan - not least for UNICEF's ability to act quickly. We also stress the need for a broader and more diversified core contributor donor base and for continued innovative cooperation by further engaging other partners, such as private sector, IFI's and non-OECD/DAC government partners. In that regard we are pleased to note the increase in private sector RR funding. Strengthening strategic dialogues with

potential and present core funders as well as further improving visibility and accountability of core funding, including in the field, can also support these efforts. What steps will UNICEF take to broaden its donor base and mobilise additional core resources? And what can we as member states do to support these efforts?

As core-financing continues to stagnate across the board in the UNDS, the effectiveness of UNICEF's normative, but also programmatic, work is further put under pressure. Considering accountability mechanisms are supported through core funding, a reduction risks weakening UNICEF's ability to deliver on its core mandate and commitment to transparency, accountability and oversight.

Second, in our view, efficiency and effectiveness go hand in hand. Delivery of programmes through joint initiatives and the usage of pooled and thematic funding allow for better instrumentalization of comparative advantages and can serve as an accelerator for the implementation of the UNDS reform as a whole. Reducing competition for funding between UN agencies is key. We welcome that 87% of UNICEF offices worked in partnership with other UN agencies in support of national priorities, and we stress the need to further increase these efforts.

Third, we recognize the potential that South-South and triangular cooperation holds to further the inclusive and effective implementation of UNICEF's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. We recognize UNICEF's work in this domain to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG results for children. We encourage UNICEF to continue its work in this regard, especially in cooperation with other UN funds and programmes.

Finally, we would like to extend our appreciation for the efforts UNICEF has undertaken in collaboration with UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA to continuously improve these structured funding dialogues by strengthening reporting and engaging the Executive Boards on this matter. Regular consideration of the implementation of the UN Funding Compact is essential to ensure its proper implementation and to hold all committed parties accountable. We appreciate the opportunity that this format provides and look forward to continuing this forum in future years.

Thank you!