

## **Finland's statement in the Second Regular Session of 2022 of the UNICEF Executive Board 6.9.2022.**

Thank you Madam President,  
Madame Executive Director,

Thank you for your insightful remarks.

Indeed, conflicts, natural disasters, COVID-19 and climate change have disrupted the lives of children in many countries and compromised their most fundamental rights.

It is clear that urgent action is necessary to meet these often interconnected challenges. We need to put the needs of children at the heart of our policies and also need to include them in the responses. In many countries, children have actually led the way in advocating for action.

Globally, UNICEF is needed more than ever. Millions of children continue to lack access to essential services.

Let me take this opportunity to commend your leadership and your commitment to make a difference, also under very difficult circumstances, in Ukraine, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and elsewhere. Finland also commends UNICEF's contribution in the global COVID-19 response.

We appreciate UNICEF's efforts to improve structured funding dialogues with UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA. Partnership between UN agencies is crucial.

We recognize UNICEF's critical role in education. UNICEF's humanitarian and development mandate and its presence in the field in the most challenging contexts enables continued education delivery, particularly for girls and those most vulnerable.

We appreciate the increased collaboration between UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank and WFP to pursue systemic progress towards quality education. The Transforming Education Summit needs to create momentum and lead to concrete actions, innovations and change.

UNICEF is a critical education partner for Finland in many countries. In challenging times, ways to identify and promote innovative programming are much required. UNICEF is one of the UN forerunners in harnessing new technology and innovation. With two innovation hubs in Finland, we look forward to deepening our partnership in areas of finance and learning.

Finland supports the call of Our Common Agenda to improve how multilateral system anticipates and acts on the future. UNICEF's efforts to strengthen foresight and understand the impact of emerging technologies on children are truly welcome.

Madam Executive Director,

Risk management, audit and oversight are crucial elements of an effective and efficient UN System. We call for their continuous improvement and strengthening. It is welcome that in the response to the audit work performed by Office of Internal Audit and Investigation, the management has agreed to clarify and communicate the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) governance and oversight. We fully support you in these efforts.

To conclude – warm welcome to Finland to launch the UNICEF Global Learning Innovation Hub and Global Innovative Financing Hub in Helsinki.

Thank you.