

UNICEF Executive Board

Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti, DSRSG/RC/HC, South Sudan

Distinguished delegates,

Young people must be the voice of today and children will be leaders of tomorrow. Across the UN system, children, especially the girls, epitomise our collective goals. If we work with and are driven by the women and children in our communities, as we do with peace, humanitarian and development actors, and governments, we can create an environment for children, women and youth to survive, thrive and develop.

It brings me great pleasure to be with you today.

I strongly believe that creating protective environments for children is the pathway to developing strong and peaceful nations. I have witnessed the crucial work UNICEF and all its staff carry out across the world, especially in complex settings to reach the most vulnerable children, in some of the hardest to reach places.

South Sudan represents some of the toughest places in the world to be a child and a woman today. Children and women struggle to access basic services; and localized conflicts continue to expose them to exploitation, abuse, and violence, including severe and grave threats and violations of their rights. The impacts of global crises and severe climatic shocks not only deepen their vulnerabilities but have grave implications for peace and security.

Wherever there are protracted crises in the world, it requires us to look towards the future for the children we serve. The leaders in government and communities, the entrepreneurs, the teachers, the young people themselves and indeed the UN and development community – all must be brought to the table. We need to look at longer time horizons to find sustainable solutions for today's most pressing problems.

Reducing vulnerabilities enhances communities' resilience. Building resilient institutions and communities is the pathway to development, dignity, and ownership of the future.

Resilient communities and institutions are at the heart of the UNSDCF, the Humanitarian Response, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together we deliver peace, development and humanitarian actions and partnerships across the UN system, with communities, Government and civil society. In South Sudan, we are spearheading the peace, development, humanitarian nexus through the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience.

UNICEF remains a crucial part of this journey. Together we are more risk informed, more conflict sensitive and more effective to stand alongside the women and children and support their vision of peace and the future.