

Madame President/ Chair,

I would like to congratulate you for your election as President of the UNICEF Executive Board and thank you for your invitation to address this Executive Board Session ahead of my country's hosting of the COP27, with a focus on climate adaptation.

Prioritising climate adaptation is absolutely key to sustain children's access to a range of services- including education, health, water and sanitation.

Today, everyone can sense how climate change is directly impacting our daily lives, and even more so vulnerable populations, especially children. The majority of the 1 billion children, assessed as 'extremely high risk' to climate change by UNICEF through its Children's Climate Risk Index, live in Africa.

Egypt is contributing to the collective actions we need, through its recently launched 2050 National Climate Change Strategy and its various action plans prioritise investment in human capital and resilience in the face of climate change.

Turning plans into action, a focus we wish to give to COP27, the Government of Egypt has incorporated the impact of climate change in a few of its various sectoral programmes. The Takaful & Karama programs are promoting resilient - a universal health-care; Water Sanitation and Hygiene campaigns promote safe and responsible use of water, and environmental studies are integrated as part of the educational curriculum. A National nutrition strategy under development will take into account climate change. UNICEF is a major partner in all these developments.

The Government of Egypt, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator and UNICEF has also launched Shabab Balad, the Egypt version of UN's Generation-Unlimited; the National Youth Strategy; and the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian women – all of which aim at providing skills and opportunities for children, youth and women to be agents of adaptation to climate change.

The Egypt Country Programme Document, that's under review by the Executive Board has made of climate change adaptation and resilience a priority cutting across its programmes, and we count on UNICEF's and partners' support in the realization of its objectives.

In closing, let me congratulate you for your decision to make children and climate change one of the key topics at this UNICEF Board Session, and encourage representatives of the Member States to prioritise children in their national climate change plans and strategies.

Thank you, Madame President.