

Agenda Item 2

Opening Session

Thank you Madam President for giving me the floor.

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union as a donor.

First of all, let me welcome and congratulate the new President of the Board. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to UNICEF staff and implementing partners for their commitment to address the needs of children, including children on the move, in increasingly difficult circumstances.

We welcome the **update on humanitarian aid** and we support UNICEF's determination to invest in key preparedness, analysis and decision-making tools to further increase the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian aid. We note that UNICEF intends, in particular, to develop a corporate framework for anticipatory action and we would be interested to hear about the lessons learnt from the pilot projects UNICEF participated in and its cooperation with other aid organisations working on the same issue.

We welcome the progress made in the implementation of the **Humanitarian Review's recommendations**. The Review is a key tool to improve the quality and predictability of UNICEF's humanitarian action. We encourage UNICEF to continue building partnerships with sister

agencies and work with them on enhancing the localisation of humanitarian aid.

We appreciate UNICEF's strong engagement in **the fight against child malnutrition**, including as Lead Agency for the Global Nutrition Cluster and support the commitment to inter-sectoral approaches. We welcome the launch of the "No Time to Waste" Acceleration Plan 2022-23 and its ambition to reach more than 26 million children at the risk of or suffering from wasting. We support the foreseen strengthening of the Humanitarian–Development Nexus and acceleration of the scale-up of simplified and innovative approaches. We would appreciate more information about the lessons learnt and next steps in the implementation of the UNICEF-WFP Partnership Framework on Child Wasting.

We welcome the systematic consultations on Country Programme Documents and the swift response to comments. We encourage UNICEF to continue with this practice.

We support UNICEF's efforts in **fighting against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment**. Metrics and indicators are a fundamental tool to develop and implement an evidence-based policy to eradicate sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment from the humanitarian and development assistance sectors. We welcome the inter-agency coordination in this matter, which is crucial to prevent, investigate and report SEAH effectively. We also strongly support UNICEF's significant work on mitigating the risk of gender-based violence in emergencies.

Given the **unprecedented challenges for children and funding gap**, we welcome UNICEF's action plan to strengthen its partnership with IFI's and

develop innovative financing instruments, in line with the objectives of the Strategic Plan. We support UNICEF efforts to influence IFIs' strategies at global and country level, in cooperation with UN partners, and we look forward to the development and implementation of an overarching IFI Partnership Strategy.

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm the European Union's strong commitment to promote and protect the rights of the child. The EU has been and will remain a key donor to UNICEF, and we are looking forward to continuing our partnership with you. **This includes the new joint EU-UNICEF discussion series in New York, which will highlight the severe situation faced by children in some of the major humanitarian crises in the world, and illustrate the impact that underfunding has on children.**

Thank you