

Oral Statement
NGO COMMITTEE ON UNICEF
UNICEF Executive Board
First Regular Session February 2023
Agenda Item 2

Distinguished President,

I am (NGOCU Member) of the (NGO) and I represent today the NGO Committee on Unicef - A New York based coalition of non-governmental organizations that advocates for the promotion and protection of children's rights, in partnership with UNICEF. It is always an enriching opportunity to address the Executive Board and fulfill our mandate to assist you as a group of transnational civil society organizations. On behalf of its members and organizations, I would like to offer you recommendations for the ongoing implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

We are aware and appreciate all the progress made regarding the Strategic Plan and the innovative perspectives of the Areas of Change. We are sure that they will concur with UNICEF's objectives and align with the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, our members' recommendations seek to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and support perspectives on the areas of change:

1. Maintain the commitment and emphasis on promoting high quality early childhood development and education.
2. Continue to promote programs and policies that support parents, strengthen parent-child relationships, and optimize children's health, including mental health compromised by loss of family, conflict, and environmental degradation.
3. Strengthen educational support for learning losses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, with special attention to those with less access to digital learning. Following on the Transforming Education Summit, analyze the advances in the field of education so as to sustain these efforts and counteract the setbacks that have occurred in previous years.
4. Increase investment in digital infrastructure and expand its development in all countries to streamline operations so that no one is left behind.
5. Include the voices of children in designing and implementing international efforts to actualize the rights of children worldwide.

The Strategic Plan 2022-2025 represents an ambitious collaborative project that seeks change. As a coalition, we are ready to fulfill our responsibility to help achieve the objectives in the Strategic Plan, reaching all children and remembering that children are the key to building a new world. We look forward to enriching the conversation for the Summit of the Future to be celebrated in 2024.

Thank you, madam/mr. President