

Intervention by Nepal
during the presentation of the Country Programme Document of Nepal to the
UNICEF Executive Board

UN Headquarters, New York

February 8, 2023, CR3

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

First, I wish you and the Board Members for convening this first regular session of 2023 to consider the country programme documents, including of my country Nepal.

Nepal has aligned its policies, plans and programs with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Good governance, inclusive development and social integration including promotion and protection of the fundamental human rights are at the core of its policies.

With the help of the UN Agencies and development partners, Nepal has achieved some notable progress in reducing child mortality, stunting, and improving sanitation and drinking water, school enrollment and rights of the child.

We were on track to achieve the SDGs targets before Covid-19. Sadly, the pandemic has pushed us off track.

We highly value the partnership with the UNICEF to achieve some of the good results not only in health and education of the children but also in protecting and promoting their rights.

UNICEF's support and cooperation has complemented the efforts of the Government of Nepal in addressing the children's needs. Its support, even before its country office established in Nepal back in 1971, has been known for its hardware support, was focused in the areas of early childhood development program and child and maternal health.

As Nepal is graduating from the LDC status by 2026, the cooperation and support of the UN agencies is more important than ever to make the graduation smooth, sustained and irreversible during this transition period.

As the climate change, global conflicts and the covid-19 pandemic have reversed the hard-won gains on the socio-economic progress made in the recent past, the role of the UN agencies is pivotal not only for achieving Agenda 2030s but also for the smooth graduation of Nepal from the LDC category.

In this context, we appreciate the UNICEF for the preparation of the Nepal Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2023-2027 in consultation with government and other relevant stakeholders.

The CPD has prioritized child-friendly governance, gender-equality, social inclusion, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and environmental sustainability, which are in tandem with the priority areas my government.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I recommend for the approval of the Nepal country program document (CPD) by the Executive Board. We believe that UNICEF Nepal will make utmost effort for its effective implementation. And I assure you of our full support and cooperation to UNICEF to make CPD a success.

Thank you.