



REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

750 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL. (212) 744-2506

Check against delivery

**First regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board in 2023
Item 6 (a): Update on UNICEF humanitarian action**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Szczerski,
Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations**

New York, 9 February 2023

Madam/Mister President,

I would like to start by thanking UNICEF and its implementing partners for their commitment to provide children in need with life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection in more than 150 countries in 2022, including in our neighboring Ukraine.

As the humanitarian needs are currently being pushed to record levels, UNICEF remains a key actor during emergencies, while also making an important contribution to upholding children's rights to protection, education and healthcare, including for children on the move.

Poland welcomes the update on humanitarian aid and we support UNICEF's determination to strengthen collaboration across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, while partnering with Governments, communities and sister agencies present on the ground.

We also commend UNICEF for the tangible progress made in the implementation of the Humanitarian Review's recommendations under the leadership of Executive Director Catherine Russell and for tackling key challenges, including the need for building humanitarian competencies of staff and advancing key partnerships.

We encourage UNICEF to continue the implementation of the Humanitarian Review also at the country level.

Madam/Mister President,

Out of 339 million people, including over 110 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, as many as 20 million people will require support in Ukraine only. It has been almost one year since Russia started a full-scale war against Ukraine and its people, adding further pressure on an already overstretched humanitarian system.

As was rightly stressed in the report, the effects of the Russian war are feeding into a super crisis: the lack of available and accessible food and energy, coupled with economic shocks, are pushing millions of persons worldwide, including children, into extreme poverty and hunger. Children in Ukraine and those displaced to neighboring countries, need access to health, education, protection, water and sanitation – as well as life-saving supplies, especially during the winter months.

In this context, we welcome the continued, ever-deepening cooperation between Polish authorities and the UNICEF Emergency Response Office in Poland and would also like to acknowledge the activities of the Polish National Committee for UNICEF in ensuring sustained support for Ukrainian refugees. UNICEF has become one of the first international partners to provide technical support to strengthen Poland's emergency response, for which we are extremely grateful.

It is my honor and privilege to serve on the Bureau of the Executive Board of an organization that deeply cares for the rights of children and I assure you, *Madam/Mister President*, that you can count on the full support of Poland to assist UNICEF in doing what it does best – deliver on results for every child.

Thank you.