

## Item 6a - (a) Update on UNICEF humanitarian action (UNICEF/2023/EB/3)

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Madam President,

The UK would like to make the following 3 points:

First, on preparedness and anticipatory action – we welcome the report’s focus on preparedness and the specific examples given, such as the Horizon Scan Tool, the Children Climate Risk Analysis, and the WASH Severity Classification. We also welcome the ‘anticipatory action pilots’ from the CERF and look forward to progress in this area, including the Corporate Framework for Anticipatory Action. We encourage UNICEF to continue to collaborate with OCHA and other UN agencies, and we look forward to working with all agencies to shape our stronger collective approaches on anticipatory action. UNICEF is especially important to this endeavour given its dual development-humanitarian mandate.

Second, on collaboration – we appreciate the new MoU between UNICEF and WHO and the UNICEF/UNHCR Global Strategic Collaboration Framework. We also welcome the IFI’s growing role in crises but recognise the need to realise efficiencies from a more coordinated response across the humanitarian ecosystem. There is need for strengthened coordination between the IFIs and the UN system at both the strategic and operational level. To that end, what steps are UNICEF taking to ensure that IFI support complements the humanitarian response in crisis-affected areas and helps build longer-term resilience of communities and countries? Furthermore, collaboration and nexus work need to be systematically embedded into wider humanitarian action. For example, high-value programmes with IFIs and development actors require full staff capacity.

Third, on the Humanitarian Review – while we welcome the update and the detailed explanation of action and improvements in getting the right staff in the right place at the right time, we are concerned that there is little reference to some of the other key findings in the Humanitarian Review. In particular, we would like to hear what progress has been made on the Humanitarian Review’s recommendations that include (a) ensuring that the organisation has sufficient evidence for UNICEF to judge key aspects of its humanitarian practice; (b) prioritising coverage over targeted interventions; and (c) ensuring a structured and comprehensive approach to accountability to affected populations.

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