

First Regular Session
of the 2023 UNICEF Executive Board
Statement by Ambassador Sangjin Kim
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
10:00~13:00, Tuesday, 7 February 2023

Madam President,

At the outset, let me also join others in expressing my deepest condolences to the people affected by the severe earthquakes in Turkiye and Syria. The Republic of Korea is ready to provide all the necessary assistance, including having sent rescue teams to the affected areas.

Madam

President,

We congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency of the UNICEF Executive Board.

Today, children across the world are facing multi-faceted plights: the lingering impacts of COVID-19, rising food and energy prices, the war in Ukraine, climate-linked disasters, displacement, and deprivation. We have rarely seen so many challenges occur simultaneously in such an interconnected way.

In this light, my delegation would like to highlight the following three points.

First, let me bring attention to UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for 2023 to reach 173 million people, including 110 million children. Given

the ever-growing humanitarian needs worldwide and the widening funding gap, we believe the appeal is quite timely.

In this regard, I am pleased that the Korean Government has significantly increased its ODA, as well as its contribution to UNICEF for 2023. This year will hopefully see greatly enhanced partnership between the Korean Government and UNICEF. We also look forward to seeing the strengthening of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in UNICEF's projects.

Secondly, we appreciate UNICEF's efforts to broaden funding sources by implementing the Innovative Financing for Children (IF4C) strategy to develop new initiatives with private partners.

We expect such partnerships to serve as an essential tool for bridging the funding gap. In this regard, the Korean Government would like to leverage its comparative advantage in the digital and technology sector to explore private partnerships with UNICEF.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of risk management and oversight of the activities within the strategy, given that IF4C is a new concept. As such, we request UNICEF to ensure that an adequate governance structure is in place to realize streamlined processes for IF4C initiatives, as well as the transparent screening of private partners.

Lastly, we welcome UNICEF's efforts in assessing its institutional strength to make progress towards the ambitious goals set out in the Strategic Plan. Recognizing UNICEF's evaluation of its organizational capacity, we would like to hear more about how UNICEF would implement change management initiatives in line with

UN system-wide reforms to ensure that UNICEF is better positioned to meet the Strategic Plan goals to ensure that no child is left behind.

I thank you.

(Time limit: 3 minutes)