

UNICEF Executive Board – Annual Session 2023

Item 3 - Annual report for 2022 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

National Statement by Germany

Dear colleagues, members of the Executive Board, esteemed UNICEF staff, Mme. Executive Director,

- On behalf of my country, Germany, I sincerely thank Madam ED for her Annual Report. The different crises we all have been confronted with in recent years have not diminished, but have become a permanent background of our work. Natural disasters caused by climate change, like the typhoon that hit Bangladesh and Myanmar, ongoing and new violent conflicts, like the wars in Ukraine and Sudan, the Covid 19 pandemic - children suffer first and foremost. We applaud and thank UNICEF for all its efforts to assist children, adolescents and families in need, to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential.
- UNICEF has been confronted during this year with even growing humanitarian needs and has risen to these challenges. We note that 63 % of the overall UNICEF budget went into the work in crisis situations. While we acknowledge that you reacted to these growing humanitarian needs, we are concerned that UNICEF risks to slide into an imbalance of the dual mandate: of humanitarian action and development. Germany is convinced that putting the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus into practice, building resilient societies and populations, climate resilient agriculture or shock resilient social protection systems are key to enable populations to master future crises without international humanitarian assistance.
- We welcome UNICEF's progress in implementing its Gender Action Plan. Following a Feminist Foreign and Development policy the German government aims to overcome structural and systemic causes of inequalities by focusing on strengthening rights, access to resources and representation of women, girls and marginalized groups. The focus is on overcoming gender inequality, as women and girls in all their diversity represent the largest marginalized segment of the population. We look forward in collaborating with UNICEF even more closely towards this goal and thus in striving for resilient, just and strong societies worldwide.
- We welcome UNICEF's successes in the WASH sector. We encourage and urge UNICEF to ensure that climate awareness and action becomes an integrated part of all UNICEF's WASH programming as in all its programming.

- We welcome UNICEF's unprecedented effort in delivering almost 2 billion COVID19-Vaccines to 146 countries worldwide. However, we must ensure that all children receive the necessary and often life-saving routine vaccinations.
- Germany noted with concern that the goals that have been set with regard to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support have not been reached. For Germany, however, UNICEF is a valued, reliable and innovative partner in this field. A recent event in Bonn, co-hosted by UNICEF, concluded that the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing and protection especially of displaced persons and host communities in need is crucial and can only be done successfully if action is taken all along the HDP-Nexus and through integrated, long-term approaches. We encourage UNICEF to concentrate on this path.
- Germany welcomes the system reform efforts of UNICEF and the entire UN Development System. We encourage UNICEF to reflect on the question how this reform can lead to better results and impact for children.
- Germany has been at UNICEF's side in its work, both contributing to its core funds and financing programs. Though we might not be able to uphold the very high level of funding available in 2022, we will continue to be a steadfast partner.
- Let me finish by conveying to UNICEF and all its staff our sincere gratitude. We thank you all for your hard work all over the world and very often under the most difficult living and working conditions, in these exceptionally challenging and difficult times.
- And I thank you all for your kind attention.