



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Annual Session of UNICEF's Executive Board
Item 3: General Statements
New York, 13 June 2023

Madam President,

Madam Executive Director,

Distinguished colleagues,

We would like to thank the Executive Director for the presentation of the comprehensive Annual Report for 2022 and to express our appreciation for UNICEF's work, which is diligently elaborated in the Report. UNICEF's mandate and its role worldwide remain critical, especially in these challenging times. Especially during this "year of polycrisis", as is very eloquently stated in the Report.

The devastating effects of armed conflicts, the multiplying impact of climate change, the still lingering socio-economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ever-persistent extreme poverty are the main drivers of crisis, which disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations, especially children.

In this regard, we commend UNICEF for its dedication, commitment and assistance to children worldwide.

For our part, as a member of the Executive Board, Greece has been ready to support and promote UNICEF's programs, with particular focus on its Humanitarian Action, always being present wherever needs arise, from the Sahel and the Horn of Africa to Syria and Ukraine.

Furthermore, Greece has prioritized the Protection of the Rights of the Child both at national and international levels, while hosting large numbers of unaccompanied minors and refugee children, providing them safety and stability, as well as access to education and health services. In this framework, we are also supporting unaccompanied minors, as well as children and families, who fled Ukraine.

Moreover, inter-ministerial work and cooperation is already underway in Greece, aiming at completing our 2nd National Action Plan for Children. At the same time, we are exploring further synergies to advance the implementation of the 5-year Country Program for Greece.

In closing, allow me to make particular reference to a notion mentioned in the “Foreword” section of the 2022 Annual Report by the Esteemed Executive Director of UNICEF, which, I believe, stands out: the notion of “... *childhood wasting*”. Such contradictory terms: *childhood* and *wasting*..... We must do our utmost to ensure that these two terms are never used together.

Thank you.