

KNL intervention on item 4 : Annual Report UNICEF humanitarian action

Mr/madam president,

I would like to begin by thanking all UNICEF staff for their important humanitarian contribution, as detailed in this year's Annual Report on UNICEF Humanitarian action. With an unprecedented rise in needs, UNICEF's effort are more important than ever and we commend you for stepping up to the new challenges 2022 posed.

Allow me to make four points:

Firstly, we appreciate the steps taken by UNICEF on furthering the **localisation** of its humanitarian response and the leading role you have taken up at inter-agency level. We note the positive progress on overhead costs and welcome that UNICEF has exceeded the Grand Bargain target of 25% of funding towards local actors. We want to encourage UNICEF to continuing stepping up these efforts and work towards a holistic localisation approach, covering quality financing for local partners, capacity-sharing, increased representation and decision-making and more equal risk-sharing. We would like to see more regular and open reporting on localisation progress and an integration of localisation as a cross-cutting issue in evaluations. *What next steps does UNICEF consider important in terms of localisation?*

Secondly, we note the progress made on strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace **nexus** in terms of global policy, procedures and guidance. The next challenge will be to translate this to better implementation at country level. In that regard, we encourage a clear reflection of the nexus in all country programmes and plans. As a key coordination agency in humanitarian settings and as a dual-mandated organization, we believe UNICEF is very well positioned to take a leadership role in this regard. *How does UNICEF intend to further operationalize the nexus at country-level in the coming years and where do you see the challenges?*

Third. As one of the major **unearmarked** donors we are pleased to see UNICEF's recognition of the need for improved reporting and information-sharing on the use of flexible funding, including the global humanitarian thematic fund. We would like to stress the importance of increased visibility and due attention to core donors, including at country level, as this could also encourage other donors to provide more quality funding.

Lastly, a word on the **humanitarian system and inter-agency coordination**. Localization, nexus and quality funding are all facets of the same issue we face collectively: exponentially growing needs and an increasing funding gap. This calls for a concerted effort within the humanitarian system. Organizations have their own mandates, but more focus is needed on common objectives, priorities and

approaches in putting people at the heart of operations. We encourage UNICEF to continuing leading in this aspect.

To conclude, we welcome the report and today's presentation, which has once again showed the relevance of UNICEF's work and its role as a pillar in the humanitarian community. Thank you.