

## **Item 16 / Address by Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association**

### **Joint Statement delivered by Denmark**

Thank you madame President for giving me the floor. I would like to thank the chairperson of the Global Staff Association for his statement.

I have the honor of delivering this statement on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, the EU as a donor, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America and my own country Denmark.

The world and the world's children face an unprecedented number of challenges; with a record number of humanitarian and protracted crises, rising poverty and inequity, global inflation and the climate crisis. In 2022, more children were in need, than at any other time in UNICEF's more than 75-year long history.

Facing these challenges, the committed women and men of UNICEF have continued to deliver life-saving and life-changing results for millions of children around the world – often under very challenging conditions such as the risk of attacks and illness. As we heard during the presentation of the Annual Report you have achieved impressive results for children within health care, education and protection – just to name a few.

UNICEF is in many ways the UN at its best – an extremely professional organization, which sets an example for others to follow. UNICEF as an

organisation is a product of its staff and we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all that you do.

We would also like to commend the UNICEF Global Staff Association leadership team as well as the Staff Association representatives at all levels for your important work the past year, particularly in representing all UNICEF staff, in communicating staff needs to management, in ensuring that the work environment for all staff is safe and conducive, in advocating for improved protection of whistle-blowers and promoting a speak-up culture.

Creating a safe, inclusive, and trustworthy workplace culture based on UNICEF's core values, requires a well-coordinated whole-of-system effort. As UNICEF's Executive Board we take our responsibility seriously in monitoring and following up the workplace culture for UNICEF staff and do so particularly through updates on organizational culture and diversity and the ethics office.

In conclusion, you can count on our continued support to all UNICEF staff and the work that you do.

Thank you.