



REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Annual Session of the UNICEF Executive Board

Item 2: Opening segment: general statements

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Krzysztof Szczerski
Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations**

New York, 11 June 2024

*Mister President,
Madam Executive Director,
Colleagues,*

I would like to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to the Executive Director for her comprehensive update just provided to the Executive Board.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire UNICEF staff and their partners, particularly those serving on the ground, for their tireless efforts in steering UNICEF's action in the most demanding circumstances.

The scope and impact of UNICEF's work, especially in conflict-affected regions such as Ukraine suffering the impacts of the Russian aggression, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the State of Palestine, Sudan, and many others, is truly commendable and essential for the well-being of countless children and their families.

Poland reaffirms its steadfast commitment to UNICEF's mission and values.

The annual session is a critical juncture where strategic decisions are made, and progress is assessed.

We recognize the significance of the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the annual report for 2023 of the Executive Director.

The midterm review of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 is particularly significant as it allows for course corrections and the adaptation of strategies to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The discussions and decisions made during this session will shape the direction of UNICEF's work in the coming years, ensuring that it remains responsive to the evolving needs of children worldwide.

Furthermore, Poland strongly supports the extensions of the ongoing country programmes under discussion during this session.

These are crucial in ensuring that all children, regardless of their circumstances, have access to opportunities and resources that enable them to thrive.

Poland is particularly attentive to the critical sessions on the efforts undertaken by UNICEF as part of the United Nations development system reform, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and the reinforcement of organizational culture and values.

These are foundational elements that underpin the effectiveness and integrity of our collective work.

We also appreciate the Executive Director's updates on the midterm review of the UNICEF integrated budget and the management responses to reports from the Ethics Office and the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigations.

Transparent and accountable financial management, alongside robust ethical standards, are indispensable to maintaining trust and ensuring the optimal use of resources for the benefit of children worldwide.

The Summit of the Future represents a strategic opportunity to address long-term challenges and set a vision for global development.

In the lead-up to the Summit taking place this September, Poland supports the Executive Director's urgent call to action.

We are committed to working collaboratively with all Executive Board members, and the entire UN membership, to advance our shared goals and to ensure a brighter, more equitable future for every child.

Thank you.