

**UNICEF: UK National Statement – delivered by Tom Woodroffe, ECOSOC Ambassador, 11 June 2024.**

Thank you for giving me the floor, Madam President.

I would like to begin by thanking UNICEF staff, on behalf of the UK Government, for their hard work and dedication and, in particular, their efforts in supporting vulnerable children, adolescents, women, and girls in many current complex and challenging settings.

The Mid Term Review of UNICEF's Strategic Plan is a key moment for the Executive Board to take stock of progress, celebrate success and look to expedite delivery where necessary.

The Review emphasises UNICEF's pioneering approaches to development challenges and to humanitarian emergencies all over the world. We applaud UNICEF for its protection of children and adolescents who face escalating armed conflicts, climate disasters, economic crises, and poverty; and for delivering cross-sectoral and crises-responsive strategies to help secure sustainable outcomes, such as access to foundational skills and the promotion of green jobs. UNICEF's *Global Programme to End Child Marriage*, of which the UK is a proud funder of, and its *Five Million Futures Framework* as key examples of this.

We welcome UNICEF's expanding partnerships, particularly with Women's Rights Organisations, as well as with civil society, the private sector and IFIs to provide more funding to local and national actors in conflict and humanitarian settings. We recognise the growing challenges regarding flexible funding arrangements – in this regard we would be keen to hear how

UNICEF will further scale-up and diversify financing partnerships with donors, IFIs and the private sector at this critical time. We would also be interested to learn more about how UNICEF will expand its outreach to affected populations and local Government to further localise funding and decision-making.

And finally, we see the JIU recommendations on effective oversight and governance by the executive boards as a key and important opportunity to streamline and strengthen our processes which in turn will increase the impact of UNICEF's interventions in country.

We look forward to hearing UNICEF's reflections on the JIU review during these Executive Boards and welcome an inclusive and consultative process to agree next steps. We urge UNICEF to continue to provide assurances that UNICEF's governance and internal controls remain sufficiently robust and to take additional steps to further strengthen fraud prevention measures and increase transparency to the Board.

Finally, we are very much looking forward to the UK- UNICEF Strategic Dialogue later in the year to discuss further opportunities to strengthen our collaboration in support of the most vulnerable.

Thank you.