



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Annual Session of UNICEF's Executive Board Item 3: General Statements

11 June 2024

UNHQ, Conference Room 2

Statement delivered by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece

Mr. Ioannis Stamatekos

Mr. President,

Madam Executive Director,

Let me initially extend our thanks and appreciation to all the contributors at UNICEF for composing the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan review and the 2023 Annual Report. Across the board of the Fund, we have attested to your commitment, proven through the exceptional work that keeps on improving the lives of children and adolescents worldwide.

This past year has brought upon new challenges that remind us of the importance of standing united in the face of global adversities while simultaneously rendering UNICEF's incessant humanitarian efforts more necessary than ever before. We



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acknowledge the demonstrated commitment, through action, which aims at safeguarding the future of humanity's new generations.

Accordingly, following the example set by UNICEF's programs and reports, the United Nations' *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and our conscientious commitment to upholding the *rights of the child*, Greece managed to contribute effectively to each one of the 5 Goal Areas, as described in your Annual Report.

Specifically, our *Neighborhood Babysitters* program aims to support low-income and single-parent families by providing access to free childcare for infants. Moreover, the recently signed MOU between the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum and UNICEF as well as the '*All Children in Education*' (*ACE*) program guarantee that children of immigrant families will be systematically integrated into the Greek public educational system, as more than 24.000 of them have already done so.

In light of Greece's prospect membership to the UN Security Council for the 2025-2026 term, we have included the *Children and Armed Conflict* agenda as one of our main priorities that define our prospective participation in the principal UN Organ.



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Correspondingly, throughout the duration of this past year we have focused the efforts of our international humanitarian aid branch, ‘*Hellenic Aid*’, to areas where children are predominantly affected by conflict, as in Gaza, Haiti and the Horn of Africa. Precisely, with regard to Haiti, I would like to mention the recent event discussion in the series on “Children in crisis”, which Greece had the honor to co-organize together with UNICEF and the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, that drew awareness to the country’s underfunded humanitarian emergency.

Furthermore, we welcome the recent introduction of UNICEF’s *Green Pal* digital tool in Greece, which intends to reinforce our youth’s ecological conscience and knowledge. Additionally, the Greek government keeps improving the free summer camp program by extending its accessibility to tens of thousands of children in the country, as the physical and mental health of our youth remains a top policy priority.

Mr. President

New challenges and global crises do not require more promises but coordinated and decisive action. In that spirit, Greece will persist in enhancing the inclusivity and



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expanding the reach and impact of our national as well as our international programs in concert with UNICEF, in order to create the right conditions for children to thrive around the world.

I thank you.