

UNICEF Executive Board – Annual Session 2024

Item 2 - Annual report for 2023 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

National Statement by Germany

Dear colleagues, members of the Executive Board, esteemed UNICEF staff, Mme. Executive Director,

- On behalf of my country, Germany, I sincerely thank Madam ED for her Annual Report. The crises we all have been confronted with since 2020 have not diminished, but have become a permanent background of our work.
- Germany is of the sincere conviction that all these challenges and crises can only be addressed jointly, as an international community. We thus thrive to strengthen multilateral cooperation. Germany remains committed to the **reform of the UN Development System**. We need to find ways for the UN to work more efficient and for international institutions to cooperate closer. We encourage UNICEF to play an active role towards this goal.
- We welcome the re-energized Funding Compact. Ensuring an adequate, more predictable and sustainable funding basis is of utmost importance if we want to reach the SDGs – with core-contributions at the heart of it.
- UNICEF has been confronted during this year with even **growing humanitarian needs** and has risen to these challenges. We note that the percentage of the overall UNICEF budget that went into the work in crisis situations has once again increased and now stands at 64 %. While we acknowledge that you reacted to growing humanitarian needs, we continue to be concerned that UNICEF risks to slide into an imbalance of the dual mandate: of humanitarian action and development. Germany is convinced that putting the **Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus** into practice, building resilient societies and populations, climate resilient agriculture or shock resilient social protection systems are key to enable populations to master future crises without international humanitarian assistance.
- Germany welcomes that UNICEF is playing an active role in developing proposals for better linking **adaptive social protection and climate finance**. We need to find better and more efficient answers to very complex challenges. We must transcend the logic of silos, sectors and mandates if we want to have integrated solutions.

- We welcome UNICEF's progress in implementing its **Gender Action Plan**. Our common goal is to overcome gender inequality, as women and girls in all their diversity represent the largest marginalized segment of the population.
- Germany has been at UNICEF's side in its work, both contributing to its core funds and financing programmes. We will continue to be a steadfast partner.
- Let me finish by conveying to UNICEF and all its staff our sincere gratitude. We thank you all for your hard work all over the world and very often under the most difficult living and working conditions, in these exceptionally challenging and difficult times.
- I thank you all for your kind attention.