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**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR DOMINGOS FERNANDES,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**AT**

**THE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE ANNUAL  
SESSION OF THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*11 June 2024 (10:00 AM)*

*Conference Room 2*

*United Nations*

**Mr. President,**

1. Mozambique would like to thank you, Mr. President, and the members of the bureau, for the leadership in conducting the work of the Board. We reassure you of our continuous and unwavering support during your tenure.
2. We also thank Ms. Catherine Russell and through her the UNICEF staff and associates, for their remarkable efforts towards the protection of children, in a context of compounding challenges negatively affecting children worldwide.
3. Regrettably, the combination of prevailing and new crises, is exposing children to situations that are not conducive to their healthy development. It also increases the challenges for child protection actions.
4. We have been receiving reports from different United Nations entities on the appalling

situation of children in Palestine, Sudan and Haiti, to name but a few.

5. The implications and risks that those situations pose to children and their future are deeply concerning and demand a strong response from the international community.
6. In this context, UNICEF's action remains not only relevant but highly needed.
7. It is against this backdrop that we would like to highlight two points:
8. **First**, children are one of the most vulnerable groups in our societies and the most vulnerable in conflict situations. Therefore, ensuring the protection of children is of utmost importance.
9. In this regard, we encourage UNICEF to continue its efforts to protect children in conflict situations, providing basic services such as access to healthcare, food and education, among others, in line with the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant instruments.

10. We also acknowledge and commend the important role that UNICEF has played in engaging with the different parties to conflicts to strengthen protection measures and minimize the impact of conflict on children.
11. Mozambique is of the view that a strengthen collective action is needed to ensure that our actions today, do not jeopardize the future generations.
12. **Second**, for a more structured and robust response, we emphasize the need for strengthened coordination with other UN agencies, to maximize the program impacts on the ground.
13. We further encourage reinforcing children's participation in peacebuilding initiatives

through specific programs that can contribute to communities' awareness of children's rights.

14. To conclude, Mr. President, Mozambique believes that 2024 is an important year that will shape the United Nations' agenda on future generations. Therefore, our engagement in the ongoing processes is fundamental to ensure children's issues remains at the core of the United Nations' agenda.

**I thank you.**