

**Annual Session of the UNICEF Executive Board  
11 - 14 June 2024**

*Check against delivery*

**Intervention by the Chair of the Standing Group of National  
Committees to Item 3: Report on the midterm review of the  
UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and annual report for 2023 of  
the Executive Director of UNICEF**

Mr President, Executive Director Russell, distinguished delegates,

The National Committees wish to express our congratulations to our UNICEF colleagues for the considerable progress detailed in the Midterm Review toward the goals of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. We are excited to see important results on issues we know are important to the children and families UNICEF serves and are of high interest to our stakeholders as well, issues like:

- Mental Health. We noted that 347 million children, adolescents, parents and caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support services, exceeding program milestones.
- And Climate Change. The midterm report tells us 5.4 million people accessed climate resilient water systems and 4.8 million accessed climate resilient sanitation facilities, while 68 countries adopted child-focused climate resilience programmes.

- And Education. Innovations like the launch of Five Million Futures are highlighted in the report. Through this effort more than 50 countries are scaling up evidence-based interventions around early learning, parenting support and school readiness.

Although the important role the National Committees play to enable UNICEF's results is not specifically mentioned in the report on the Midterm Review, we take pride in knowing our contributions are significant and the results would not be achievable without us—as is noted in the Strategic Plan's Integrated Results and Resources Framework. Our presence and activities in countries that provide substantial resources to UNICEF ensures broad public support for the rights of children and for UNICEF as the most important agency working on their behalf.

The public support we inspire is essential to our governments' decisions to continue to invest in UNICEF's work and opens doors to the individuals, institutions and corporations who provide the private sector resources so critical to UNICEF's success. Additionally, our domestic child rights advocacy ensures that UNICEF's mandate "for every child" extends to children and youth everywhere, including in our countries.

As UNICEF colleagues around the globe continue the difficult work of achieving the strategic plan goals at a time of enormous challenges for children, we recommit to our work as child rights champions, our responsibility to support UNICEF's programme objectives, and our collective mission to ensure that every child is healthy, educated, protected and respected.

We also stand ready to participate where appropriate in the development of the next UNICEF strategic plan to ensure that the strategies, plans and actions of our own 33

organizations are aligned with UNICEF's goals in order to accelerate results for children as we move closer and closer to 2030.

Thank you.

Michael Nyenhuis

Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees

Executive Director of UNICEF USA