

Joint Statement to be delivered by Sweden

UNICEF Executive Board Annual session 2024, 11–14 June 2024

Item 16 Private Fundraising and Partnerships: Financial report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Mr/Madame President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, EU as a donor, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States and my own country – Sweden.

Thank you for the presentation of the financial report on private Fundraising and Partnerships for the year ended 31 December 2023. We welcome the important work that the UNICEF partnerships team has carried out together with the national committees and the country offices. We appreciate the work of UNICEF to create a strategic shift this area.

We take note of the revenue for 2023, which was higher than the approved budget but lower than the record revenue of 2022, which part was due to significant funding for Ukraine. We welcome that the proportion of regular resources is larger in 2023 than the previous year, as is the share of funding towards emergency response.

We also take note of new and growing challenges for the PFP work last year, when work on fundraising and partnerships was affected by a global situation where the focus of many donors has shifted from global to domestic. Some of the reasons mentioned in connection to this were climate change, polarization, high costs of living and conflicts.

These circumstances underline the importance of partnering up to maximize results for children. We would like to highlight the solid efforts of the UNICEF

National Committees, not only delivering revenue for the organisation, but also generating new partnerships, engaging with the private sector, and contributing to the important normative work of UNICEF by advocating for children's rights – locally and globally.

We also welcome the strengthened cooperation with other UN entities, such as the feasibility study to create a joint private sector financing facility with UNDP.

To manage risks is vital in all of UNICEF's operations, not least when it comes to innovating and trying out new ideas and methods. Therefore, we welcome that PFP has strengthened its work on risk management. To be truly innovative, one must take calculated risks and we as Board Members, and donors, are willing to explore how we can share informed risks with the organisation to be able to find new ways to make an impact for children. We would be interested in hearing more about risk management and UNICEF's thoughts on how to keep the Executive Board informed in a transparent way so that we in turn can be supportive of new initiatives that Member States so often encourage the organisation to explore.

It is encouraging that the share of regular resources within the revenue from private sector has increased. Catalytical financing can accelerate development and results for children. However, private sector collaboration is not only a source of financing, but an important vehicle to achieve results for children and get more actors onboard in efforts for children's rights. The Today and Tomorrow Initiative as well as the Child-lens Investing Network are two examples of this.

We look forward to being innovative together and to create partnerships for the good of every child.

Thank you.