

Madam/Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Finland, Canada, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria, Malta, Israel, Denmark, Iceland, Türkiye, Ireland, Spain, the European Union as a donor, the United States, the United Kingdom and my own country, Greece.

Thank you for the presentation of the *Annual report on the implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025*.

We firstly commend UNICEF for its catalytic work in gender equality against a backdrop of entrenched global challenges, such as the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath, climate change, and humanitarian crises which continue to widen gender disparities and deepen deprivations for girls and women around the world. It is more important than ever that UNICEF continues to achieve transformative and long-lasting results through its gender equality programming. However, the report and the data provided only reveal to a limited extent what specific approaches and strategies UNICEF is pursuing. We welcome more details in future reporting.

We want to acknowledge UNICEF's efforts in scaling up activity to address the needs of adolescent girls, particularly concerning their health, including sexual and reproductive health, and access to digital education. This leads to a more intentional gender-transformative approach to violence prevention. Such efforts are critical to applying a whole-of-life-cycle approach and ensuring that adolescents are fit and able to obtain decent work and economic opportunities at the end of their studies. However, girls' learning and job opportunities still remain disadvantaged compared to boys. How will UNICEF help ensure that girls are given access to modern, job-specific technical and vocational skills? Additionally, what is UNICEF doing to increase partnerships with the private sector to improve opportunities for adolescent girls?

We also commend UNICEF's efforts to strengthen community-based approaches, particularly for front-line workers in health and nutrition programmes, across 92 countries. Community-based approaches help programmes to expand in reach and scale and it helps to foster a supportive environment in which to implement activities. How does UNICEF build equitable partnerships and what challenges are you facing in working with grassroots and local women's rights organizations in country?

Finally, UNICEF have made important advances in data collection and in producing gender statistical analyses. The 'Bridging the Gender Digital Divide' and the 'Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene' are good examples of this. We would welcome more information on how UNICEF is accelerating efforts to strengthen staff and partner capacity to carry out rapid gender analyses and data collection in humanitarian settings. We would also welcome more data and information on technology facilitated gender-based violence, which was not referenced in the report, and the approach that UNICEF are taking to reduce it.

Thank you.