



**Statement by Her Excellency Trishala Persaud, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations, during the Second Session of the Executive Board of UNICEF**

**Agenda item 4(a): Country programme documents**

**2 September 2026**

***3 mins***

Thank you, Madam President,

Allow me to convey Guyana's appreciation to the members of the Executive Board for the important work that you continue to do in implementing UNICEF's mandate.

Guyana aligns with the joint statement delivered by Jamaica.

We join in thanking UNICEF for the comprehensive Multi-Country Programme Document 2027-2031 and for its continued valued support and close collaboration with Guyana. We welcome the strategic shift in approach from project-based implementation to evidence-based solutions which must be based on reliable data.

The Programme document reflects many of the realities the Caribbean faces.

The region's high exposure to climate-related shocks and socio-economic pressures underscore the urgency of the priorities outlined and the importance of continued partnership with UNICEF. The emphasis on strengthening data systems and regional cooperation through CARICOM and the OECS will aid in ensuring that investments reach disproportionately affected children.

Guyana supports the MCPD's three programmatic outcomes, which align closely with our national priorities.

Child poverty reduction is a priority for Guyana – reflected in strong investments by Government across key sectors, including education, health and social protection; sustained and targeted efforts are yielding positive results for children in Guyana.

The MCPD's focus on addressing the triple areas of mental health, malnutrition and learning bolsters several of our national initiatives. In this regard, I highlight our expanded school feeding programme, strengthened maternal and child health services and advanced early childhood development, including through parenting programmes. The emphasis on integrating mental health and psychosocial support into primary health care is also timely and will complement Guyana's efforts to expand school-based counselling and community mental health outreach.

The MCPD's emphasis on protecting children from violence is critical, in particular, the digitally enabled child protection systems, survivor-centred services and scholastic violence prevention. UNICEF's support for child-centred disaster risk reduction will directly enhance our ability to protect children, including those in hinterland and Indigenous communities and those affected by migration pressures.

Madam President,

The proposed budget across regular and other resources represents a meaningful investment in the future of Caribbean children. We encourage UNICEF to continue mobilizing predictable and flexible financing to support the goals outlined in the MCPD.

In closing, Guyana expresses support for the Multi-Country Programme Document and looks forward to working closely with UNICEF and our regional partners to ensure that every child in Guyana and across the Caribbean can enjoy their full rights and realize their full potential.

Thank you.