

2026 Second Session of the UNICEF Executive Board

1 – 4 September 2026

Check against delivery

**Intervention by the Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees to Item 5:
Structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan,
2022–2025 and Funding compact: Progress against Member State and entity-specific
commitments related to UNICEF**

Mr. President, Madam Executive Director, distinguished delegates,
UNICEF and National Committee colleagues,

National Committees appreciate the continued efforts of Member States
to strengthen both the quantity and quality of financial resources
available for children.

The report makes it clear that the financing environment is becoming
increasingly difficult, with public sector “core” or “regular resources”
to UNICEF - at historic low levels.

This trend must be reversed. Core resources drive UNICEF’s impact and
build resilience.

National Committees are proud to contribute to the urgent need to
increase core resources for children.

(In 2025, we provided 789 million US dollars in Regular Resources,
alongside substantial contributions to Other Resources and
Emergencies.)

In fact, in 2025, seven of the top ten largest Regular Resources
contributors were National Committees.

These results reflect more than successful fundraising. They reflect public trust and a shared commitment to children's rights among millions of individuals worldwide. Through advocacy and public engagement, National Committees help build trust in UNICEF's mission and results.

However, individuals and private sector funding cannot replace public funding. As duty bearers (under the Convention on the Rights of the Child), and key actors in the international system, governments have the primary responsibility to ensure predictable and sustainable investments for children's rights, and well-being.

An area of opportunity for a more resilient and diverse funding base is public-private sector partnerships.

In March this year, the Government of Sweden announced a 555 million Swedish crowns humanitarian package for Gaza, including 400 million Swedish crowns for UNICEF.

At the same time, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs partnered with the National Committee of Sweden to mobilize and match additional resources from the Committee's private sector partners.

This innovative partnership illustrates the transformative potential of bringing public and private actors together. Each partner contributing with different strengths, networks and resources to deliver greater impact (for children).

National Committees look forward to working together with governments, private partners and UNICEF to continue to find new ways to deliver results for children.

Finally, protecting UNICEF's core funding means protecting children from the consequences of underinvestment in their future.

As the Executive Director highlighted in her opening statement, investing in children remains one of the most impactful choices governments and private actors can make. Let us together make that choice.

Thank you.

Pernilla Baralt

Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees