UNICEF Executive Board
Second Regular Session 2026
Item 10 – UNICEF Strategic Plan, updated financial estimates, 2026–2029
03 September 2026, New York

– CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –

Mr./Ms. President of the Executive Board,
Madam Executive Director,
Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

Thank you for the comprehensive report and the presentation of UNICEF's updated financial estimates for 2026-2029. We appreciate the measured approach to financial planning in an increasingly constrained funding environment. We note that the 20 percent reduction in income is materializing for the first time in 2026, and we welcome the conservative outlook for the coming years, which assumes a relatively stable income level at this lower level.

We also take note of the proposed increase in the minimum annual allocation of regular resources for country programmes which partially compensates for inflation over the same period. It is the first increase in 13 years. As per information in the informal briefing on 21 August a regular review should be established in the future and is foreseen every four years.

In the following, we have a few questions concerning the persistent challenge of securing adequate funding for evaluation activities, which is likely to remain relevant throughout the 2026-2029 period. We would therefore be interested to hear from management:

- What does management consider to be the main factors that make it difficult to secure adequate funding for evaluation, despite the importance attached to evaluation in UNICEF's policies and decision-making?
- What concrete steps does management intend to take to improve the funding situation for evaluations, particularly in "other-resources-funded programmes"?
- And how does management plan to work with the Evaluation Office to jointly identify and address the underlying challenges and ensure that evaluation is adequately resourced?

Thank you.