Uzbekistan PR’s remarks at
the meeting of the first regular session
2021 of the Executive Board of UNICEF

Mr./Madam Chair,

First of all, let me thank the Executive Board of UNICEF for convening today’s event and for the opportunity to address its First regular session in 2021.

From the outset I would like to reaffirm Uzbekistan’s strong commitment to close cooperation with UNICEF and other UN specialized agencies in addressing critical issues pertaining to child protection in Uzbekistan.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Today it gives me a special pleasure to express Uzbekistan’s full support to the UNICEF Country Program Document for 2021-2025.

The CPD, drafted with support of UNICEF and other development partners, will provide Uzbekistan with important evidence-based policy advice on advancing cooperation with the Fund.

One should note that the new Country Program Document is in full conformity with Uzbekistan’s national priorities, main directions of the ongoing reforms, national SDGs, and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework endorsed by the Government.

The President of Uzbekistan, H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his recent address to the Parliament has outlined a number of priorities in the area of protecting and supporting children in our country and creating for them and their families best ever opportunities. In Tashkent, we look forward to working with UNICEF to further advance these priority tasks within the new CPD.
Mr./Madam Chair,

The Government of Uzbekistan for the past a couple of years has closely collaborated with UNICEF on one of the important humanitarian issues, namely, in repatriating women and children from conflict zones in the Middle East back to their homeland. We’ve conducted three special operations "Mekhr-1" (Mercy-1) and "Mekhr-2" (Mercy-2) and "Mekhr-3" (Mercy-3) to repatriate our citizens, mostly women and children from Syria and Iraq. The President has called the returnees as “his own children” and ensured that significant resources had been allocated to facilitate their return and reintegration. Herein, we have treated those children as victims which is in full compliance with provisions of international law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mr./Madam Chair,

In Uzbekistan, we appreciate strong support provided by UNICEF in protecting children’s rights, conducting childcare reform, strengthening educational system and implementing various projects and programs related to child’s well-being.

Therefore, concluding, I would like to reiterate that the Government of Uzbekistan highly values its cooperation with UNICEF and remains committed to continue close bilateral collaboration in practical implementation of the new Country Program.

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.