Thank you Madame Ambassador.

Allow me to start by thanking Mr. Fontaine, Mr. Wijesekera, and Dr Ryan for their briefings and remarks. Turkey joined the statement delivered by Canada, and I would like to add a few notes from the Turkish perspective under this agenda item.

As emphasized by many, the Covid-19 crisis has further deteriorated the situation in humanitarian settings. The most vulnerable among us - women, children, migrants, refugees and countries in special circumstances - have paid the heaviest price.

In many parts of the world, diagnostic tests and basic medical equipment are still needed to fight against the virus and ensure effective medical responses. The provision of affordable and rapid supply of vaccines and antiviral drugs is urgently needed.

Turkey has played her part in the international cooperation efforts to contain the virus and mitigate its impact. We support the equitable access to an effective and affordable Covid-19 vaccine and pledged 53 million US Dollars for the COVAX initiative.

In the period ahead, we should focus our efforts on:

i) Sustaining the ongoing humanitarian programmes in the most fragile contexts around the world and
ii) Facilitating the access of the most vulnerable to Covid-19 vaccines.

Turkey commends the work of UNICEF in effectively adapting its response to the changing needs and conditions in the humanitarian emergencies, as we experienced first hand in the COVID-19 pandemic.

We highly value the partnership with UNICEF in the provision of humanitarian assistance to more than 4 million people in the northwest Syria through the UN cross-border operations.

We look forward to enhancing our partnership with UNICEF in the delivery of Covid-19 response tools, especially in the provision of rapid supply of vaccines to the most vulnerable. The recovery from the current crisis will only be ensured by our strong re-commitment to the 2030 Agenda, and coordinated UN system response on the ground.

Thank you.