Dear colleagues, members of the Executive Board, Madame Executive Director and Mr. President,

To begin with, we would like to align ourselves with the joint statement delivered by CHE.

First, we would like to congratulate UNICEF for its Strategic Plan 2022-2025. We value the Plan as an ambitious, forward-looking and comprehensive framework to guide UNICEF’s efforts to support children and youth everywhere. We appreciated the inclusive elaboration process.

We congratulate UNICEF for achieving most of its targets under the Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Furthermore, we welcome UNICEF’s efforts to incorporate lessons learned into the new Strategic Plan to further improve the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of its response in situations, where children are in need.

We are convinced that UNICEF’s new Strategic Plan is a fitting framework to address the increasing challenges worldwide.

Please allow us a few additional comments on the new SP:

- First, we commend UNICEF’s efforts to improve its evaluative work and increase evidence generation. Over the period of the new Strategic Plan, UNICEF should further strengthen its evaluation function, particularly with regard to evaluation of impact, contribution to global evidence base and effective knowledge management.

- Second, we welcome the new Strategic Plan’s stronger focus on environmental sustainability and climate action. Climate sensitivity should become a standard for UNICEF’s programming. We therefore encourage UNICEF to put a special emphasis on building internal capacities around environmental sustainability, climate action and resilience, including for analysis and technical infrastructure interventions.

Before concluding, we would like to emphasize the importance of the mid-term review for UNICEF and the Executive Board. This is essential to take stock of the progress achieved and to discuss necessary adjustments for the remaining period of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. President, Germany considers the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 as an important step forward to realize every child’s rights. We will support UNICEF in its implementation in the next four years.

Thank you.