Mr President, ED Fore, distinguished delegates, National Committee colleagues,

It is my honour to speak on behalf of the family of 33 National Committees for UNICEF.

I would like to open this intervention by reaffirming our full support to the spirit of the new Strategic Plan which shifts the focus beyond what the organization can do alone towards mobilizing other actors to maximize collective impact for children.

In light of this, I would like to share my reflections on three of the layers of the Plan:

Let me start with the 5 Goal Areas. They represent the dream we have for every child, a dream that is attainable and that invites everyone, National Committees, governments, partners and supporters, to co-create in finding solutions for every child. We are fully supportive of the 5 goals and are eager to work together to achieve them.

On the second layer are the Change Strategies. National Committees see many areas where our experience can inform future collective efforts and help UNICEF take a shortcut and change faster.

- The first opportunity relates to public, private and civil society engagement. The Standing Group of National Committees has already started conversations with the Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division, the Partnerships Office in Brussels and the Public Partnerships Division with the purpose to align, mutually-support one another and streamline processes going forward.

- The second Change Strategy I would like to mention is Digital Transformation. As agile organizations, close to our supporters and our markets, National Committees adapt quickly to the digital field, nurturing a network where learnings are shared and information flows freely, welcoming all to partake in the evolution that we are trying to create.
The last layer I would like to focus on today is Enablers, which are key to supporting the achievement of the proposed goals.

- National Committees applaud UNICEF’s intention to decentralize and empower governance and decision-making closest to where they need to be made. Many decisions should indeed be made locally, where UNICEF’s mandate is accomplished.

- With regard to an accelerated resource mobilization strategy, National Committees note a clear expectation of growth in private sector income to support the achievement of the goals in the Strategic Plan. As major contributors to private sector funding, and the largest source of unrestricted funds to the organization, we look forward to co-developing with the Partnerships Cone an impactful business plan to enable such growth and achieve expected results. We have a global meeting in October with all National Committee Executive Directors and Board Chairs and will take advantage of this important gathering to start framing a more detailed plan together.

Thank you,

Suzanne Laszlo

Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees