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During the General Debate of the Second Regular Session of UNICEF’s Executive Board
Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Thank you, Mr. President.

I bring you compliments from His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia. We are pleased to participate in this Second Regular Session. My delegation thanks Executive Director, Henrietta Fore for her leadership over the years and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.

We meet at a critical time; COVID-19 continues to take a huge toll on countries across the world. Recent data shows a surge in the infection rates of children, in addition to the psychological impact that children continue to face. Now, more than ever, we need to protect children’s rights and ensure their well-being.

In this regard, Liberia welcomes UNICEF’s focus on an inclusive recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the realization of a society where every child’s rights and well-being can be fulfilled.
This reality demands that we be more innovative and resolute in our actions and strengthen partnerships and implementation at all levels. Hence, we applaud UNICEF for the consultative and transparent process towards the development of its new Strategic Plan 2022-2025, a plan that seeks to strengthen the programs and systems related to the survival, and health of children, including immunization, nutrition, and early childhood development, all of which are critical for Liberia.

Mr. President,

UNICEF’s partnership with the Government of Liberia continues to facilitate interventions in improving child, maternal and neonatal services, combating malnutrition, promoting WASH services, basic education and child protection.

The Government of Liberia, under the leadership of His Excellency President Weah continues to make efforts to implement laws, policies, and programs that protect the rights and welfare of children across Liberia. We are pleased to report the restoration of a sense of normalcy with the reopening of schools across Liberia for in-person learning, while enforcing necessary safety measures.

Mr. President
Excellencies

We applaud UNICEF’s leadership role in the COVAX facility, bringing much needed relief during this pandemic. Just last month, Liberia received the third batch of COVID-19 vaccines. To date, we’ve received nearly five hundred thousand doses of COVID-19 vaccines. We are grateful to the Government of France, the European Union and other donors to the COVAX facility. We also applaud the welcoming news that the Pfizer vaccine is suitable for use by children age 12 and older.

As the Secretary General acknowledged recently, vaccine equity remains the biggest moral test before the global community. The world can not be free of the COVID-19 virus, if all countries do not have access to the life saving COVID-19 vaccines.

As we discuss all of these pertinent issues to build back better for children, Liberia reaffirms her commitment and support to UNICEF and looks forward to adopting a decision endorsing the new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 at this Second Regular Board Session.

Thank you for your kind attention.