Agenda Item 10
Formative evaluation of UNICEF work to link humanitarian and development

Chair, Madam Executive Director

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union as a donor.

We welcome the formative evaluation of UNICEF work to link humanitarian and development programming and the overall positive Management response. The evaluation is an important tool to foster further implementation of the Nexus.

We are pleased to see that UNICEF has made significant progress in advancing the link between humanitarian and development actions in its programming, notably in its most recent Country Programme Documents. We trust that this evaluation will help UNICEF strengthen it even further at planning, programming and reporting levels as well as paying increased attention to the peace dimension of the Nexus.

We note with interest that the evaluation draws lessons from UNICEF’s response to the pandemic and that it also covers UNICEF engagement at the inter-agency level, including its important role in humanitarian clusters. We encourage UNICEF to use its role as cluster lead and co-lead to support the implementation of the Nexus, including through the promotion of systematic risk-informed approaches and inter-cluster exchanges of analysis and best practices.
Given UNICEF’s dual mandate, we support the recommendation to strengthen the organization’s overall approach to the Nexus and build the capacity of UNICEF staff in order to help them deliver more effectively across the Nexus. In this connection, we encourage UNICEF to find the right balance between the contextualization of guidance and the design of encompassing reporting tools that allow better connectedness and coherence of humanitarian and development work, as recommended by the evaluation. We also encourage translating more systematically policies into practice, notably in terms of localization, accountability to affected populations, as well as risk-informed and conflict-sensitive programming. We would appreciate more information on UNICEF’s plans in this respect.

We welcome that the recommendations of the evaluation have informed the preparation of the new Strategic Plan. We also welcome that UNICEF will align its work across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus with the 2020 QCPR. Overall, we encourage strong partnerships to effectively and efficiently implement the Nexus, with each actor contributing in line with their respective core strengths.

We appreciate the steps recently taken by UNICEF in order to operationalize the Nexus, notably through the revised Core Commitments on Children, designed to apply in all contexts. We note that the evaluation recommends the development of a Nexus marker. We would welcome more information on why this recommendation is not taken up by Management.

We also note that during the COVID-19 response UNICEF made efforts to link urgent assistance and medium- to long-term socio-economic
responses. However, the evaluation found that the structure of the global response lacked an explicit Nexus approach, which led to silo approach and underfunding of the response to the social and economic impact of COVID-19. We therefore encourage UNICEF to build on the recommendations of the evaluation and accelerate progress on shock-responsive social protection as well as strengthen local and national capacities for disaster risk management.

We support the recommendation for UNICEF to invest in strengthening civil society systems and capacities in the context of the Nexus, while efforts have until now focused more largely on government systems. In this context, we welcome that UNICEF has adhered early on to the OCED/DAC Recommendations on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, which sets out steps to operationalize the Nexus with a lens on the localization agenda.

Last but not least, as regards gender and disability responsiveness, we commend UNICEF’s very clear commitments and policies. We encourage UNICEF to more systematically strengthen interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace approaches to these issues within its country programming. This will help translate more effectively these commitments in humanitarian contexts, protracted crises, and fragile contexts.

We would appreciate if the Board could be kept informed periodically about the implementation of the recommendations of this evaluation.

Thank you.