Mr. President, Executive Director Fore, distinguished colleagues,

Thank you for this opportunity to reflect on the programmatic cooperation with the UNICEF on the occasion of adoption of the Country Programme Document for Armenia for 2021-2025. I welcome the presence of the First Deputy Minister of Health of Armenia Ms. Lena Nanushyan and thank her for the presentation of priority areas of programmatic cooperation with UNICEF. I would also like to thank Ms. Afshan Khan, Regional Director, Europe and Central Asia for her presence and engagement in preparation of the Country Programme Document for Armenia.

We value the long-standing and result-oriented cooperation with UNICEF, aimed at protecting and promoting rights of children, creating an inclusive, child-sensitive and resilient social protection service, ensuring access to quality education and universal, affordable and accessible health system with particular attention to children in vulnerable situations.

I would like to recognize the contribution of the UNICEF Office in Armenia for its efforts in alleviating the socio-economic and humanitarian impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, including through projects aimed at supporting continuity of education and distance-learning in partnership with the Government, the private sector and civil society organizations.
We are pleased to note that the CPD is based on the needs and priorities of the Government and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The alignment of the CPD with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Armenia for 2021-2025 promotes synergy and complementarity with the activities of other UN agencies, thus increasing the efficiency and added value of the projects.

The Programme sets a comprehensive framework for achieving progress in four action areas focusing on social protection, health, education and child rights.

Inclusive and human rights-based approach in implementation of the programme will be instrumental for realization of the pledge for “leaving no one behind” and to create a safe and conducive environment for children to enjoy their human rights and realize their talents.

We appreciate that the Country Programme Document reflects the complex challenges faced by Armenia and prioritizes addressing the humanitarian needs of children and their families affected by conflict, such as access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, protection of displaced and orphaned children, design and implementation of rehabilitation, integration and vocational training projects.

Multi-stakeholder partnership, including with the Parliament, civil society organizations, the Office of the Human Rights Defender, academic and research institutions and the private sector is crucial for the achievement of the targets, set out in the Programme.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate Armenia’s strong determination to the effective and constructive cooperation with UNICEF and all other development partners in implementing the country programme document aimed at advancing family-friendly social protection reforms, strengthening healthcare services, addressing malnutrition, increasing inclusion of children with disabilities and those from border settlements into mainstream education system and society. Thank you.