Mr. President,

I would like to thank Mme Fore for her comprehensive briefing today, as well as for her accomplishments during her tenure. She has led UNICEF with a tenacious commitment to the rights and wellbeing of every child, and has greatly helped this Executive Board navigate the most challenging of times over the past few years. In my capacity as the head of the Korean delegation as well as a Bureau member, I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude for her close cooperation and I take this opportunity to wish her good health and happiness in the next chapter of her life.

The unprecedented challenges we have faced this year have proved that these complex challenges do not affect everyone equally. Such a reality demands us to develop a new approach to tackle obstacles and simultaneously achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. With this in mind, I welcome the timely and relevant establishment of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-25 and would like to highlight the following points.

First, the Republic of Korea supports the overall direction of the new Strategic Plan, in particular, its strategies on risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming. Bearing in mind that root causes of vulnerabilities further hinder the effectiveness of our collective humanitarian response, I believe that the new strategic plan will serve as a concrete guidance to UNICEF to support the socio-economic foundation of peace and improve social cohesion in partner countries. Korea, as one of key responding countries to UNICEF’s
Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, looks forward to its continued strong partnership with UNICEF to resolve underlying causes of fragile situations.

Second, COVID-19 has exacerbated global health inequalities for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. I am pleased to take note that UNICEF, as a lead agency of the global vaccine supply operations, continues to work diligently in successfully fulfilling its mandate. For its part, Korea has pledged US $200 million to COVAX for ensuring global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. Korea looks forward to further enhancing its partnership with UNICEF to build resilience against the pandemic.

Lastly, Korea strongly supports UNICEF’s commitment to leverage the full capacity of the United Nations development system in close collaboration with UN agencies and other entities. My delegation believes that effective monitoring and evaluation are as critical as implementation to ensure the coherent implementation of the. We look forward to learning more about UNICEF’s efforts to harmonize monitoring and evaluation approaches in line with the QCPR.

Before closing my remarks, I would like to recognize UNICEF’s continuing response to events unfolding in Afghanistan. Taking note with concern that half of the population, over 18 million people including 10 million children, need humanitarian assistance at this very moment, my delegation expects that UNICEF continues its mandate by reaching every child affected by crisis in Afghanistan. I thank you. /END/