Mr. President,

Madam Executive Director,

Distinguished colleagues,

Allow me to extend my gratitude to the UNICEF Secretariat for their diligent efforts to finalize the new Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2025.

The new strategic plan aims to address a number of essential issues, among others: reaching children in the poorest countries; inclusive recovery from COVID-19; addressing the underlying causes of children’s mortality and poverty; leveraging financing for children; and the very important issue of “supporting families and parenting”.

"no child is left behind” is humane and logical guideline that has been rightly inserted in the plan and should be observed everywhere and at all times.

While we appreciate the hard work put into preparing the new UNICEF Strategic Plan, we would like to express our deep concern regarding the usage of a number of nonconsensual terms in the new Plan, such as “sexual orientation and gender identity, sexual rights, comprehensive sexuality education, programming gender in a transformative way” as Iran and a number of delegations have, on numerous occasions, expressed our opposition on the inclusion of such terms in UN documents.

Mr. President,
In addition to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Iran does indeed face an added layer of adversity due to the US’ illegal sanctions that have affected our ability to deliver appropriate health care services to the Iranian people. At the same time, Iran has also been host to millions of refugees for decades. This population, especially its children need miscellaneous services, spanning from different vaccines and health care to education and other services. These are not short-term needs. In fact, it has been a standing need for more than four decades and, therefore, requires a long term and strategic approach.

The women and elderly of the refugee population are in dire need for the COVID-19 vaccines as well as adequate access to health care services, among many other services.

I would like to thank Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, for assisting my Country in combating the problems caused by unilateral coercive measures against Iran, especially during the COVID-19 outbreak, and I firmly request further assistance to meet the refugees’ challenges.

I thank you.