Item 2: Opening Statement by the Executive Director

Thank you, Executive Director Fore for your opening remarks.

The United States would like to express our profound appreciation for your leadership of UNICEF over the last four years. Although there will still be some time before you depart your post, we would like to take this opportunity during the formal Board meeting to bid you farewell.

We particularly want to express our gratitude for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. Drawing on UNICEF’s experience working with some of the most vulnerable populations in difficult circumstances, under your direction UNICEF rose to the challenge of addressing the global pandemic. UNICEF’s partnership with COVAX to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines rapidly and equitably worldwide demonstrates UNICEF’s invaluable service to the international community. The partnership is a testament to your capable leadership, your staff’s dedication and professionalism, and UNICEF’s global reach and stature.

The United States particularly appreciates your singular focus on children and their families. As the result of your relentless advocacy and tireless efforts, UNICEF achieved most of the objectives set out in the 2018-2021 strategic plan to promote survival, nutrition, health, education, protection, and life opportunities for children.

Under your leadership, the organization has also mounted several major humanitarian campaigns to alleviate the suffering of children, refugees, and internally displaced populations in places stricken by poverty, conflicts, and natural disasters, such as Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, the Central Africa Republic, and Haiti, just to name a few.

We also appreciate your contributions to implementing a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and sexual harassment in UNICEF. Your leadership has been instrumental in UNICEF’s formulations, implementation, and improvement in PSEA prevention policies and practices, facilitating incident reporting and protecting victims and survivors.

As fellow Americans, we offer you our best wishes and expresses our profound appreciation for all your contributions.