U.S. Delegation Remarks for the
UNICEF Executive Board Second Regular Session
September 7-10, 2021

Item 5: UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2022-2025

- The United States strongly supports the five focus areas of UNICEF’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, and we appreciate that the Gender Action Plan advances those goals.

- Under the guidance of past Gender Action Plans, UNICEF has accomplished much in the areas of maternal, newborn, and child health care; immunization; nutrition, WASH, HIV/AIDS, education, violence against women and girls, preventing and responding to GBV; child protection; and social protection, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its Plan for the next three years offers a solid roadmap for UNICEF’s efforts on behalf of gender equality. We appreciate the level of specificity in the Plan, as well as its indicators and monitoring mechanisms to measure progress. We encourage UNICEF to undertake monitoring to achieve both accountability and learning to continue evolving and increasing effectiveness of gender-related strategies and actions in the future.

- The United States, in line with the new Global AIDS Strategy endorsed by the 2021 UN General Assembly’s Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, supports action to strengthen efforts that increase access to high-quality, gender-responsive, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, both in and out of school, particularly for adolescent girls and young women and young key populations in settings with high HIV incidence.

- We applaud UNICEF’s commitment to helping the most marginalized individuals. These include those who face discrimination because of disability, race, or sexual orientation and gender identity, and those who are in difficult circumstances due to migration, displacement, natural disasters, or armed conflict.

- We encourage greater inclusion of youth, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) youth.

- We commend UNICEF for continuing to support women, youth, and local social justice organizations addressing some of the most pressing challenges of the day: sexual exploitation, harassment, and abuse; racial injustice; and the climate crisis. We urge UNICEF to harness and apply the vital lessons learned in all these areas from the global response to COVID-19, to enhance the impact of this new Gender Action Plan.

- We applaud UNICEF’s commitment to increase its influence and develop new partnerships as described in the Plan. We encourage UNICEF to re-energize its existing partnerships with other UN agencies and donors by increasing meaningful communication, collaboration and sharing of lessons learned with partners and implementers in relation to gender issues. We encourage the organization to prioritize gender-sensitive and responsive programming in joint efforts and through the coordination clusters.