Agenda Item 15

Joint statement at the
Adoption of the Decisions

Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Tunisia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, and my own country the Netherlands.

This Executive Board session is in many ways a historic one.

It is unfortunately the last session with our Executive Director, Ms. Henrietta Fore, who will be leaving the stewardship of the UNICEF family.
As many MS have already expressed, her dedication to serving children around the globe has been greatly appreciated and she will be greatly missed.

It is also a historic day, because in this time of great uncertainty around the world, we adopt a new Strategic Plan for UNICEF to shape its vision and delivery for 2022-2025.

We are confident that this new plan will provide UNICEF with the necessary guidance to help deliver on the SDGs for all children globally.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis demonstrate that we cannot take for granted the progress we have made so far toward the Sustainable Development Goals. We need to ensure that no one is left behind while recovering and building a better and greener future. That is why the adoption of a new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 is both timely and imperative.

We believe that the Strategic Plan sets a clear and ambitious vision for the future. It serves as a global framework that will enable UNICEF, as the penholder of the Strategic Plan, to best fulfill its mandate and support countries in delivering on their national development needs and priorities. We are therefore in strong support of the Strategic Plan and very much welcome its endorsement through today’s decision.
We appreciate the consultative and inclusive process towards the development of UNICEF’s new Strategic Plan and the efforts UNICEF has undertaken with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women to strengthen their collaboration.

As a UNICEF family, we represent many different views, cultures and backgrounds, but as a family, we also overcome these differences, allowing UNICEF to do what they do best: deliver for all children in need.

We wish UNICEF the best of luck in translating this plan into national strategies and CPD’s, in dialogue, as always, with national authorities.

Thank you.