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*Misión Permanente de la República del Paraguay ante las Naciones Unidas  
Nueva York*

## **First Regular Session of the UNICEF Executive Board**

***Paraguay's general statement to be delivered by  
H.E. Ambassador Julio César Arriola***

**8 February 2022**

- His Excellency Ambassador Rodrigo Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations and President of the UNICEF Executive Board,
- Mrs. Catherine M. Russell, UNICEF Executive Director,
- Fellow members of the Executive Board,
- Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Carazo on his coordination as President of our Executive Board and thank him for his commitment and hard work.

Mister President, we look forward to working with you this year and with the distinguished members of the Bureau.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Mrs. Russell for her statement and wish her all the best in her role leading UNICEF.

Mister President,

The ongoing pandemic presents us with unprecedented challenges and constraints. We cannot over emphasize the importance of a robust recovery and build back better for everyone, and particularly for children, in that sense we must focus our efforts on fundamental issues such as education, food security and nutrition, and protection against violence.



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Finally, Mister President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the UNICEF response to COVID-19 in the context of the global UN response and we look forward to fruitful debates and reviews in this session and in the coming ones and we reaffirm our commitment to participate actively and engage constructively.

Thank you very much for your attention.