

Joint Statement

Executive Board of UNICEF

Plan for global evaluations 2022-2025, Agenda Item 8

FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2022

8 February 2022, New York

Madam/Mister President

I make this statement on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States of America and my own country, Germany.

We thank UNICEF for the presentation of the final plan for global evaluations 2022-2025 which takes on board valuable lessons learned from the previous workplan.

We welcome the plan for global evaluations 2022-2025 which we consider an important tool for UNICEF's organizational learning, accountability and development, and by means of independent evaluations, help strengthen the focus on outcomes and support further impact orientation throughout the implementation of the new Strategic Plan.

We commend UNICEF for utilizing a broad range of evaluation methods. We do encourage UNICEF, in line with decision 2021/10, to expand the use of rigorous impact evaluations in the period up to 2025, particularly in thematic areas where new approaches have potential for scaling-up or where existing impact evidence on approaches is lacking.

We consider joint and system-wide evaluations highly important and therefore welcome the five joint evaluations and numerous evaluative products foreseen in this workplan. We encourage UNICEF to aim for a comprehensive approach to joint evaluations, including joint management responses that reflect the varied partnership models and joint engagements of UNICEF with UN agencies and other partners. In order to share evaluation knowledge and learning at a global level and within the organisation, we encourage UNICEF to further engage with academia and entities outside the UN system. We welcome UNICEF's initiative to look at new solutions and innovations regarding evaluation approaches and we call on UNICEF to liaise with other UN agencies to undertake these efforts jointly. We highly appreciate the

increase in evaluations related to humanitarian action in order to further increase learning and improve UNICEF's work in crisis situations.

We welcome the anticipated integration of UNICEF's global and decentralized evaluation functions in order to more effectively support national evaluation capacity development and to increase collaboration, efficiencies and complementarities across UNICEF's evaluation and other knowledge and data functions to maximize results for children at country levels. We also welcome the integration of gender and humanitarian lenses into all evaluations. We look forward to hearing from the Evaluation Office how this integration will translate into results on the ground.

We commend UNICEF's efforts to set up different funding mechanisms such as the impact catalyst fund or the continued use of the evaluation pooled funds to facilitate the numerous evaluation activities mentioned in the workplan. However, we are concerned that neither of the above-mentioned instruments has been provided with the means required in the proposed budget and both an indication regarding the required human resources and contingency funds are missing.

In addition, expenditures for evaluation remain off the established target of 1% of programme expenditures which is of great concern. We would therefore like to re-iterate our expectation for UNICEF to provide adequate funding to the evaluation function, specifically the different proposed funds, and to enable the attainment of the 1% target. We urge UNICEF to provide the necessary resources to allow the different instruments to serve the various needs.

Thank you.