

Statement by
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Before the 2022 first Regular Session of the UNICEF Executive Board
On Agenda Item 2: General Debate
New York, 8 February 2022

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Thank you, Mr. President,

Madam Executive Director, At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for assuming the vital responsibility of directing the UNICEF and extend my wishes to you for your success in providing services, assistance and welfare to children all over the world, especially in conflict regions and to those who are in need, including refugees and the displaced.

A number of important issues were raised by the preceding delegations, some of which my delegation shares concern with as well. With that in mind, I would like to propose a few additional remarks.

Mr. President,

The role of women, especially mothers, during the outbreak of COVID-19 in providing care and protection for their families, especially children, has been irreplaceable. Without the support of mothers during the period of lockdown and closure of schools, children would have faced detrimental effects to both their physical and mental health, including their education, and the desired results for this time would not have been achieved. The role of mothers and the family in providing care and education to children, indeed future parents and members of society, is crucial. I firmly request the UNICEF to empower mothers and the family within the framework of supporting children.

Mr. President,

Over the years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has faced unlawful and oppressive sanctions and, recently, maximum pressure policies and campaigns. The first victims of such are children who are in need, especially children with diseases in need of medical care.

Despite these conditions, Iran has benefited from UNICEF assistance in the provision of some medical equipment. Fortunately, the threats of sanctions have now become opportunities for Iran to expand medicine and vaccine production along with medical equipment domestically, such as ventilators, with some even ready to export. However, the population of Iranian children that are patients with rare diseases, such as EB, require orphan drugs. In practice, these drugs are under sanctions as well, and my delegation expects the UNICEF to assist in their provision.

Thank you, Mr. President.