

**Ethiopia's Statement on Item 6(a): Update on UNICEF Humanitarian Action**

**UNICEF Executive Board First Regular Session 2022**

**By Anteneh Senbeta, Minister**

**9 February 2022**

**Thank you, Madame Chair!**

We thank UNICEF for the update on its humanitarian activities and actions taken in responses to recommendations set forward in the humanitarian review of 2020. We believe in the necessity to periodically examine the business model for an efficient and effective performance in all its works.

Being one of the beneficiaries of the support of UNICEF, we commend the meaningful contribution to alleviating humanitarian conditions.

The world is currently grappling with multiple threats posed by conflict, climate change and the Covid19 pandemic, whose devastating impact is immensely felt by children and those who are most vulnerable.

The Horn of Africa region, including my country, is experiencing the devastating effects of the triple threats. The challenges posed by climate change are unprecedented, making millions of people food insecure and, children subject to malnutrition.

An estimated 13 million people across Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya are facing the hunger, owing to below normal rainfall for three consecutive years.

We commend UNICEF's timely interventions to provide lifesaving assistances including through the Central Emergency Response Fund, targeting the drought prone regions. However, urgent mobilization of funding and resources remain critical to prevent death among children, including through funding its drought response appeal.

**Madame Chair,**

Fair and equitable distribution of vaccines must be our priority as we as we strive to recover from the pandemic. We need to act in solidarity to ensure that children are in school and protected, through investment on innovative learning pathways including digital learning in the most disadvantaged countries.

We need to make decisive and generous actions to overcome these layers of hardships humanity is faced with, for a better recovery, healthier and sustainable world for present and future generations.

I thank you!