

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

**09 – 12 February 2021**

### **Intervention by the Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees to Item 2: Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF**

*Check against delivery*

ED Fore, MMe. President, distinguished delegates,

Let me first give your my congratulations mme president, and thank you and ED4 for your opening remarks

I'm the Executive Director of UNICEF Netherlands and Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees.

I am very honored to participate in this UNICEF Executive Board session for the first time as Chair of the Standing Group, representing a family of 33 Committees around the world. Since 1947, we have contributed over 17 billion dollars to UNICEF while advocating for child rights to be respected everywhere.

I would like to take the opportunity y thanking my predecessor David Morley, the past and current Standing Group members, and our many UNICEF colleagues for their support.. I very much look forward to adding value to the important discussions of the Executive Board and to engaging with and learning from the delegations.

As I begin my term, I wish to continue the great work that is already underway and look forward to strengthening the ties of our special partnership with UNICEF even further. In 2021, National Committees are especially eager to contribute to the development of the next Strategic Plan and to helping UNICEF accelerate results for every child.

National Committees are united by our shared passion to ensure that children are able to fulfill their potential and live in a better, safer, more just and sustainable world. We believe that this world can and must be achieved, and we will continue to join forces with UNICEF, with our supporters and our governments to enhance our shared commitment for every child.

Thank you,

*Suzanne Laszlo*

*Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees*

*Executive Director, UNICEF Netherlands*