



**MÉXICO**  
Misión Permanente de México  
ante las Naciones Unidas

## MEXICAN DELEGATION STATEMENT DURING THE OPENING SEGMENT OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD

*February 9, 2021 | Virtual*

Thank you Madame Chairperson,

Mexico welcomes the detailed presentation of the Executive Director and commend the vital role that UNICEF has played in the UN Development System, in contributing to the implementation of the SDGs, both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are concerned because the pandemic has had a **disproportionate impact on children**, pushing back the progress the world had made on several child - related indicators and accentuating gaps and inequalities in child rights and well-being, dramatically affecting the most marginalized communities and households.

We are also deeply concerned of the many children that are falling behind on education, and those at risk of dropping off, **particularly girls and adolescents**.

Mexico has paid particular attention in implementing **gender-responsive and human rights-centered national responses during this health crisis**, highlighting the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, and recognizing the urgent need to ensure child protection.

We have a multifaceted challenge; while we need to connect all children to the internet to ensure education, we need to do not lose the urgency on protecting them, both in person and in digital spaces. But also at school and at home, given the **increased exposure to online violence**, taking forms such as cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation and abuse, child grooming, trafficking in persons, hate speech, among others. We need to foster campaigns against domestic violence everywhere against women, girls, boys and adolescents.

This year, Mexico will present, for the third time its **Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum 2021**, where different SDGs closely related to children's rights will be under review. We welcome UNICEF's engagement in this process.

Moreover, we must do everything in our power to support children in difficult times and we welcome in this regard, the comprehensive approach of the draft Strategic Plan 2022–2025, to be adopted this year. It is too early to say for certain the long-term **mental health and psychosocial impacts** that the pandemic will have on children, as a consequence of movement restrictions, school closures and lack of socialization, interruption to basic services such as health and nutrition, to mention some. We thus welcome UNICEF's support in making mental health services available for every child everywhere, particularly in humanitarian situations and children with disabilities.

We would like to stress the need to integrate UNICEF's experience in the vaccinations efforts worldwide. UNICEF has the know-how and the experience in massive vaccination efforts, so, ensuring fair access to vaccines would be a major task where UNICEF can support the international community.

Finally, I would like to thank UNICEF for its active engagement in the **Generation Equality Forum**, to take place this year in Mexico and France. Could UNICEF share with the membership what are the main priorities that the Fund wishes to enhance as part of the Technology and Innovation Action Coalition?

Please count on Mexico as a partner as we advance our collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and promote effectively the Rights of the Children, without any kind of discrimination in the comprehensive recovery we all need..

Thank you.

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