



PERMANENT MISSION OF
COSTA RICA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

UNICEF Executive Board – First Regular Session 2021 - Agenda Item 2

**Intervention in response to opening statements by the President of
the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF
Delivered by H.E. Rodrigo A. Carazo – 3 min**

9 February 2021 – 10.00 am

Madam President (Ambassador Plepyté),

I wish to commend at the outset your election as President of the UNICEF Executive Board 2021 as well as my fellow vice-presidents and members of the Board. Costa Rica is honored to be back in the Executive Board of such a fundamental organization as UNICEF, for the UN System, children, as well as a long-standing partner to our national efforts.

We thank Madam Executive Director, Ms. Henrietta Fore, for her remarks. We adhere to the intervention previously delivered by Denmark, and I would like to address three aspects which are crucial for Costa Rica as we embark on the 75th Anniversary of UNICEF.

First, we must commit to a response based on rights, equity and inclusion across the board in order to build back better from the current pandemic and refocus on the SDGs. This requires our full attention to the complexity of challenges that are affecting children, ranging from poverty, violence, the learning crisis, to food insecurity and physical and mental health.

Costa Rica will support UNICEF's work in developing multi-sectoral and coordinated strategies, as the only means to respond to immediate developmental and humanitarian needs, while building the capacities of children, young people and adolescents and their future, such as the Generation Unlimited partnership. Gender equality, full inclusion, climate and intergenerational solidarity are key to these efforts.



Second, these programmatic orientations should be complemented with increased synergies and collaboration, whether within the UN System, or at the national level.

We welcome that UNICEF will integrate in the drafting of the new Strategic Plan the orientations from the QCPR and the UNDS reform; the recommendations of the Gender Action Plan, the humanitarian and other reviews; and we encourage that it also builds upon the guidance on human rights standards developed by the treaty body system.

Finally, reinforced synergies need creative thinking, which cannot be done alone or in a vacuum. We welcome the emphasis placed by UNICEF's plans on partnerships and participation, as we believe that the effective and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, from civil society to the private sector, has to spearhead the configuration of a UNICEF's business model that is effective, innovative and accountable to its rights holders.

To conclude, let me reiterate our commitment to working closely with UNICEF and the Executive Board in the year towards these objectives.