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UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD
FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2021
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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ENKHBOLD VORSHILOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS
(on the agenda item 2)

Madam President,
Distinguished Members and Observers of the Executive Board,

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Ambassador Plepyté and the newly elected Bureau members on their election. We look forward to working with you throughout this exceptional year.

My sincere gratitude goes to Ambassador Rabab Fatima and the outgoing Bureau for their hard work and diligence during the unusual year of 2020.

Madam Executive Director,

I'd like to thank you for your comprehensive statement. I commend the UNICEF management team and staff for the unwavering commitment to protect the rights of children and deliver for children and youth wherever they need help, from refugee shelters or other humanitarian circumstances to the countries with special needs.

I would also like to thank UNICEF for their early response to COVID-19 and leadership role in distribution through COVAX facility and ACT Accelerator. UNICEF's pro-active awareness-raising campaigns such as 'recommendations for private sector on flexible working hours' and 'managing work from home' as well as assistance in improving sanitation and remote learning was instrumental in helping Governments and private sectors to adapt to the new normal.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of UNICEF. It is an important year for UN development agencies as we are starting to implement the new QCPR and develop the next Strategic plan accordingly.

Member states will have to face socio-economic setbacks caused by the global sanitary crisis this year. You rightly pointed out, Madame Executive Director, that due to reduced social spending and development aid and growing humanitarian needs, UNICEF will need to reach out to much more people in need. In this regard, I hope that in Strategic plan 2022-2025 UNICEF will pay particular attention to including youth participation and protection of children from violence and discrimination as requested in the QCPR.

My delegation fully supports UNICEF's approach to focus on four key needs to support children during the pandemic: distance learning, immunization, water and mental health. I am confident that within its dual humanitarian and development mandate, UNICEF would redouble its contribution to accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable development goals and build back better and greener.

Madame President,

One of the priorities of the newly established Government of Mongolia is digital transition and youth employment and empowerment and leave no one behind, especially people with disabilities and NEET (not in employment, education or training). UNICEF's Partnership initiatives such as Generation Unlimited and GIGA are crucial to increase investment in digital learning, building skills and youth empowerment.

My delegation will continue its strong commitment to protecting the rights of children and providing equal education and employment opportunities for all young people.

I thank you.