



الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

Mission Permanente d'Algérie
auprès des Nations Unies
New York

البعثة الجزائرية الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement by His Excellency Sofiane MIMOUNI
Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

First Regular session of UNICEF Executive Board
Tuesday, 9 February

Item 2: statement of the Executive Director of UNICEF

**Madam President,
Excellencies,**

I would like to express my congratulations to you, Excellency, for your election as the President of UNICEF executive board, at a critical year for the organization as we celebrate its 75th anniversary and embark in the discussions for the adoption of the new strategic plan, 2022-2025. My delegation is confident that under your able guidance and leadership, this session will be successful and productive.

I would also like to thank the Executive Director, Mme Henrietta Fore, for her opening statement and for her leadership and commitment to the realization of UNICEF's objectives and priorities. Your devotion, Mme Fore, is critical to the organization and highly appreciated by my delegation.

**Madam President,
Excellencies,**

2021 is a year of evaluation and opportunities for UNICEF.

Evaluation, as we need to look at what has been achieved so far, learn from the experiences on the ground and identify the best practices. In this regard, throughout the years, UNICEF has proven to be a valuable and trusted Entity to support Member States. Indeed, the organization achieved critical and essential results in Delivering support. Nutrition. Health care. Vaccinations. Water and sanitation and Education. In the face of the pandemic, UNICEF maintained a steady pipeline of lifesaving supplies, found new ways to support remote learning and reached almost 75 million children and women with essential health care.

However, despite all these efforts, and because of a pandemic that has plunged million children into deeper levels of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and vulnerability, we need to step up and give UNICEF the proper guidance and tools to assist our countries. Here's come the opportunity for our organization. The COVID-19 created a new normal, a new way of working and delivering services and a new set of priorities and actions.

In this context, UNICEF covid-19 response has shown where the organization has a comparative advantage: that is vaccination. My delegation supports UNICEF's work in the field of vaccination and acknowledges its leadership role in ensuring rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for people in all countries. We, therefore, urge UNICEF to work closely with Governments to deliver the vaccines and help prepare for this important undertaking through the development of distribution plans, based on their need.

Another area where UNICEF can shine in this new context is Education. Indeed, 2020 has been a devastating year for the education of Children. The estimation showed that out of the total population of students, over 90% were out of school because of COVID-19 closures. We urge UNICEF and Member States to make education a priority for the New Strategic Plan, in order to

assist countries building resilient education systems and bridge the digital divide between countries to ensure access to the technologies needed for remote learning alternatives.

**Madam President,
Excellencies,**

Let me now turn to the progress achieved for the Promotion and Protection of Children in Algeria, especially during the COVID-19.

First, Children remain at the heart of national policies and programs aimed at guaranteeing and promoting their rights at the legislative and regulatory levels, in particular education, health and protection. The Algerian government developed and adopted a Law relating to the protection of children, that enshrines the protection of the child against all forms of harm, neglect, violence, ill-treatment, exploitation or any physical or moral attack, and aims to protect their rights in situations emergency, disasters, wars and armed conflicts, as well as protection from the media in order to avoid any damage to their physical and mental health

In the context of the COVID-19, the existing mechanisms have been strengthened to face the disproportionate consequences that this pandemic create on children, by putting in place helplines and shelters across the country to tackle their needs and to ensure their protection from violence and abuse. We have rapidly scaled up our response to meet children's need, by ensuring the continuity of essential health care, promoting infection prevention and control (PCI), strengthening access to continuing education and engaging with local community to provide children, family and caregivers with information and tools to promote health interventions, like handwashing and social distancing.

Lastly, in November 2020, a cooperation program for the year 2021 was signed between the National Body for the Protection and Promotion of Children and UNICEF in Algiers, with the aim of to strengthen the rights of the child, through raising awareness campaigns and training programs.

All of our efforts have been supported by UNICEF country Office in Algeria, to which we extend our thanks and our support. This Office provides strategic focus on partnership development to advance the well-being of children in the country, providing humanitarian assistance and reinforcing the collaboration on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Madam President,
Excellencies,**

We believe that the future of UNICEF lies in the preservation of the trust Member States give to this organization. States entrusts UNICEF to assist them ensuring the well-being of their own future generations. They trust UNICEF in helping them protect their most valuable wealth: Their children. Their future citizens. UNICEF must live up to this trust, as it always did, and recognize the primary responsibility of the State in setting up and implementing policies in conformity with

their own priorities, cultural context and national legal framework, to promote and protect the rights of the Child. In this regard, UNICEF's technical assistance and capacity building programs as well as service delivery and grass-root engagement should always remain consistent with its mandate and the countries' national law, to ensure a well-coordinated, mutually - agreed and need-based cooperation frameworks.

Let me conclude, Madam President, by reiterating Algeria's appreciation and support for UNICEF work and the actions taken within its mandate to fully realize the rights and potential of children, throughout the world.

I thank you