

First Session of the UNICEF Executive Board

09 – 12 February 2021

Intervention by the Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees to Item 8: Evaluation of UNICEF work for children in urban settings, and management response

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Mne vice. President, my fellow National Committee and UNICEF colleagues, distinguished delegates,

I submit this statement on behalf of the 33 National Committees for UNICEF in response to the Evaluation of UNICEF work for children in urban settings, and management response.

Thank you to the Evaluation Office and Programme Division for the presentation.

National Committees commend UNICEF's drive to continuously strengthen its operations and evolve so that children everywhere can have their rights respected. We are aligned in the desire to sharpen our strategies and advance progress for every child.

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative is proudly led by National Committees in 25 countries around the world. Through solid and reputable recognition mechanisms, we have been able to help communities of all sizes and locations become beacons for child rights.

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative is an important way for enabling communities to reduce inequality, to ensure children are heard, to continuously improve performance. It is truly the

result of a remarkable collaboration among UNICEF, National Committees, Communities and Governments, playing to each other's strengths. In fact, the Child-Friendly Cities in National Committee countries is so well grounded that it was used as a mechanism for many key interventions during the covid-19 pandemic.

We would like to underline two fundamental points:

- The first one is that even though some of the recommendations are directed at High Income Countries, , National Committees were not the object of this evaluation and therefore, the findings and recommendations are not applicable to their contexts.
- Secondly, we are grateful to UNICEF Spain for welcoming the evaluation office and for demonstrating a great example of a Child Friendly Cities Initiative. The Spanish Case was used for the purpose to illustrate the potential of a good practice in a High Income Country.

National Committees and UNICEF are fully aligned in the aforementioned two points, and we appreciate the assurance and confirmation offered by the UNICEF leadership in this regard and the suggested way forward.

Finally, mme v. President,

It is well known that National Committees are closest to our colleagues in the Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division. But we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation in strengthening the partnership and collaboration between the Programme Division and our family of 33.

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, UNICEF colleagues.

Suzanne Laszlo

Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees