

First Session of the UNICEF Executive Board

09 – 12 February 2021

Intervention by the Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees to Item 7: Update on UNICEF humanitarian action: the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

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

I would like to use this opportunity to highlight two points in support of this important discussion. The first one is about results.

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, with financial markets in severe distress and fierce competition for funds, National Committees had excellent results in fundraising for the covid response in 2020.

These incredible results, are due to our faithful supporters and our ability to make UNICEF's work visible in our territories.

This leads me to my second point, which is about our evolving role for children.

Covid-19 once again showed the world that some of the most grave problems affecting children are not contained by borders. The good news is that UNICEF is also global and our mandate for

children is universal. Through National Committees and Country Offices, UNICEF can truly be there for every child.

When the first signs of the pandemic were felt in National Committee countries, our public turned to us for help. With the support of UNICEF, National Committees have worked diligently and efficiently for this purpose.

Through Situation Analyses, we have worked in five main thematic areas: social inclusion, social protection, education, child protection and health, and child rights education/communication for development. We have partnered with our governments to identify roles to complement and reinforce existing capacities. This way, National Committees not only fulfilled our traditional mandate to advocate and fundraise, but also raised the UNICEF profile in our countries, which helped us raise even more funds for children!

I would like to end my remarks by honoring and thanking the incredible staff in National Committees, Country Offices and headquarters, all over the world, who have reinvented themselves, learned new skills and continued to work tirelessly even in the midst of personal losses.

Thank you Mr. President.

Suzanne Laszlo

Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees

Executive Director of UNICEF Netherlands