



**Statement by H.E. João Genésio de Almeida Filho, Deputy Permanent  
Representative of Brazil to the United Nations**  
UNICEF Executive Board, First Regular Session 2021

Agenda Item 7 - UNICEF response to Covid-19  
10 February 2021

*\*as prepared for delivery*

Madam President, thank you for giving me the floor.

I would like to add my voice to congratulate UNICEF for their achievements in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The report speaks volumes with robust results and a clear strategy for action that is consistent with and builds upon UNICEF Strategic Plan. Even though this is a response to an unexpected health emergency, UNICEF expertise and know-how prove that there is no room for improvisation.

We took good note of the four strategic priorities of UNICEF humanitarian response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the key results achieved, the challenges and lessons learned. We are glad with the strategic direction UNICEF has taken to fight this pandemic and recognize the determination of its staff to turn those guidelines into results.

I would like to underline the importance of partnerships and to highlight not only the work of UNICEF under the leadership of national governments, but particularly with local authorities, local institutions and community leaders.

Brazil is part of that effort and there are dozens of successful partnerships with UNICEF. Please allow me to share some concrete examples:

- (i) Webinars with information on early childhood for parents, teachers and care providers, with an audience of over 3 thousand people;
- (ii) Webinars focused on strategies to encourage the return of children to school, in over three thousand municipalities that resulted in the return of over 60 thousand children to school;
- (iii) In the northern state of Roraima, that is home today for thousands of immigrants and refugees, UNICEF has increased their presence to help enhance existing health and education services;
- (iv) In partnership with Fiocruz Foundation, UNICEF has distributed hygiene kits to indigenous communities in the Amazon region;
- (v) UNICEF has also distributed food and hygiene kits to protect families and children in care institutions from Covid-19 in an initiative that is estimated to have reached over 800 thousand people.
- (vi) UNICEF has developed a capacity-building pilot project in response to the pandemic for over 2700 stakeholders, including local authorities, in 5 states in the Northeast region of Brazil.
- (vii) UNICEF partnered with private sector companies that are championing a project that aims at generating one million

opportunities for work, training and study for youth, particularly those most in need.

Madam President,

These are examples that show how UNICEF has been working with partnerships, both with the public and private sector, with a focus on reaching those furthest behind and being flexible to adapt to the circumstances to be fit for purpose. Brazil commends UNICEF for its creative and innovative programming to fight the Covid-19 pandemic and we reiterate our commitment to work with UNICEF in the months to come.

I thank you.