

Agenda Item 10

UNICEF financial reports and audited financial statements

Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union as a donor.

We take note of the unqualified audit opinion from the Board of Auditors on the 2019 financial reports and statements and the Management response. We welcome that UNICEF Management has implemented two recommendations of the Board of Auditors and commits to implement most other recommendations by the end of the second quarter of 2021. We share the commitment to promote a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability in delivering results for children.

We appreciate that UNICEF Management is developing a central repository for indicators to implement the recommendation of the Board of Auditors on reviewing the application and assessment across country offices of output indicators. We consider this important in terms of strengthening accountability and monitoring of planned results.

We also take note of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors regarding the implementation of the UN reform and support agencies to explore avenues to promote resources for the smooth functioning of the Resident Coordinator system.

We welcome the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on cost recovery and reiterate the importance of harmonizing the cost recovery methodology and rates among all UN entities.

We appreciate UNICEF's determination to foster a culture of integrity and accountability and appreciate its collaboration with six other UN agencies to develop and implement a fraud awareness online training addressed specifically to implementing partners. We would like to remind that the EU, in the context of its zero tolerance policy, remains fully committed to the fight against any form of fraud, corruption and sexual exploitation and request all its partners to align with it.

Thank you.