

**U.S. Remarks**  
**UNICEF Executive Board First Regular Session 2021**  
**Friday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Agenda Item 4 – Roadmap for 2022-2025 Strategic Plan**

We congratulate UNICEF on its efforts towards the new Strategic Plan 2022–2025 and encourage the organization to share a draft of the plan, its budget and annexes for review well in advance of the June Executive Board sessions.

We applaud UNICEF for working towards a plan that accounts for the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, that allows for context-specific adaptations and integrates recent UN reforms while ensuring coherence and harmonization with other UN agencies.

We strongly support UNICEF’s efforts to coordinate with UNDP, UNFPA, and UN-Women on the strategic planning process and to carry out joint briefings and interactions.

Noting UNICEF’s inclusion of humanitarian assistance as a cross-cutting issue in the 2018-2021 strategic plan, we are eager to see how UNICEF will leverage its unique comparative advantage to address the conceptual divide between humanitarian action and development work and build on its critical role in global humanitarian action in the new strategic plan.

We also commend UNICEF for the inclusion of gender equality as a cross-cutting issue in the current Strategic Plan and encourage the addition of prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse as an area cutting across all programming versus a stand-alone area of focus and see this as a critical way for UNICEF to maintain accountability to affected populations.

The road map mentions the inclusion of strategic approaches to improve effectiveness of its work. We would like to see these strategic approaches address quality and coverage with a focus on improving data collection, disaggregation, analysis, and reporting. Further, ensuring that data and results are available in a timely fashion to inform decision making and adaptation. We urge UNICEF to address the need for timely and accurate reporting on its activities.