

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

Agenda Item 9 – UN Development System Reform

The United States welcomes UNICEF's internal and system-wide efforts to advance UN development system reform mandates and best practices.

We commend the leadership roles assumed by UNICEF, as co-chair of the Business Operations Task Team and the Efficiency Impact Task Team to support agency specific and system-wide progress on the many efficiency gains and cost savings mandates and initiatives. We commend UNICEF for achieving 50% common premises in 2021.

- How much has UNICEF been able to save on costs because of this milestone?
- Does UNICEF have any global, regional, or country level efficiency or cost-savings targets for 2021?

In the future, we would like to hear more details about UNICEF's work at the regional level, including engagement with the new Regional Collaborative Platforms. As has been noted by a majority of Member States over the last year, there are increasing expectations for more transparency around the work of the UN at the regional level, including that of specific UN Funds and Programs, entities, and specialized agencies.

We also welcome continued dialogue around the alignment of Cooperation Frameworks and CPDs moving forward. We look to UN Funds and Programs to more proactively further this objective, increase transparency around this process, and engage member states in such a way that supports the Board's consensus-based approach toward the adoption of CPDs.

The United States is eager to hear more about the UNSDG Leadership Strategy, RC performance appraisal, and the system's plans to ensure all in-country personnel have the skill sets and impartiality required to deliver for the UN based in country-specific needs and contexts. We would be interested in learning more about how UNICEF is translating this goal into appointments in the field?

The United States notes and welcomes the programming updates on strategic partnerships with other UN organizations in the areas of nutrition, health, social protection, and innovation. We commend UNICEF for its partnership approach to activities advancing the UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint for Joint Action for refugees; for its work with World Food Program (WFP) on the Partnership Framework on Child Wasting, and with the WHO on the Strategic Collaboration Framework for public health emergencies, health system strengthening and access to Universal Health Coverage.