

**Joint Statement Executive Board of UNICEF  
First Regular Session 2021  
World Bank Instrument (Item 11)  
12 February 2021**

Madam President,

I am very pleased to be delivering this statement on behalf of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and my own country, the United Kingdom.

We are pleased that member states have been able to reach agreement on Item 11 and the World Bank instrument to facilitate sustained investment in private sector fundraising. However, we would like to note some concerns with how this issue was presented to the board, noting the relevance for future discussions on UNICEF's approach to innovative financing.

We're disappointed that this item was put to the Executive Board for decision at a late stage of design and implementation, meaning any delay or lack of approval would have a detrimental impact on UNICEF's fundraising activity in the 18 emerging markets. Earlier consultations with a variety of both Executive Board members and other UN relevant actors would have allowed member states more time to raise concerns linked to risk mitigation and longer-term policy implications.

We fully support UNICEF's efforts to explore mechanisms for new and innovative sources of financing. But such mechanisms should be developed in a transparent manner, both to Member States and relevant other UN actors, particularly when it is linked to organisations including the International Financial Institutions where many UNICEF members also have significant investments, and implemented in a transparent manner, including to potential investors and with regards to any public marketing of the instrument.,

We would ask that UNICEF provide regular updates on the financial performance of the instrument, attainment of goals as well as corresponding costs and capacities annually at the first regular session through the duration of the instrument. We urge UNICEF to brief the Executive Boards with enough time for proper consultations ahead of any future plans for similar financing instruments.