



New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

**UNICEF Executive Board Annual Session 2021
Item 4: UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-25**

**New Zealand Statement delivered by
Permanent Representative, Craig Hawke**

Friday 4 June

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Mr President,

This 75th Anniversary is a critical time for UNICEF. As we consider the next Strategic Plan we must acknowledge that the COVID-19 health crisis is ongoing and the associated economic and social impacts will have a long tail.

We agree with the Executive Director's comments earlier this week that this is also an opportunity for UNICEF's dedicated staff to build on the critical role they played in the global health response to COVID-19 and demonstrate UNICEF's value for children the world over. We thank you for your work on vaccine delivery.

New Zealand would like to highlight two priorities which we believe are crucial to reflect in the Strategic Plan:

- **Firstly, delivery for the most vulnerable children.** We welcome the proposed shift in the next Strategic Plan to an intersectional approach to inequality and discrimination. New Zealand considers that reduced connectivity is a real risk as a result of COVID-19 and will continue into the next Strategic Plan period. We encourage UNICEF to clearly lay out in the Strategic Plan how it will adapt its operations to effectively deliver for those most vulnerable such as girls, indigenous children, children with disabilities, and children in humanitarian situations.
- **Secondly, effective delivery for differing contexts.** New Zealand would like the Strategic Plan to clearly articulate how UNICEF will give consideration to differing operating contexts in how it delivers its work. We would especially welcome explicit consideration of how UNICEF can best support Small Island Developing States (SIDS). SIDS face unique challenges to long-term security and development, not least the impact of climate change. UNICEF needs to work differently in these contexts to have a greater impact on the lives of children in Small Island Developing States.

New Zealand is heartened to hear these priorities reflected in today's briefing. We look forward to the next iteration of the Strategic Plan.

Thank you, Mr President.