

**United States Remarks for the
UNICEF Executive Board Annual Session
June 1-4, 2021**

Item 4: UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022-2025

The United States commends UNICEF for the draft 2022-25 Strategic Plan which continues to focus UNICEF on its mandate and five goal areas and is a good basis for the organization to continue to provide humanitarian assistance as well as advancing its contributions to sustainable development.

The United States supports the incorporation of lessons learned during the response to COVID-19. We commend the focus on building momentum for equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine and the advancement of equity-based agendas around the world.

We welcome UNICEF's efforts to address sexual and reproductive health and rights, the renewed focus on gender-based violence, and the social and economic inequalities that have placed a double burden on women and girls during the pandemic.

The United States strongly encourages UNICEF to continue to incorporate program evaluation recommendations, lessons learned, and the relevant findings from the upcoming UNICEF MOPAN assessment into the new Strategic Plan, particularly to address social, political and economic factors to achieve breakthroughs for long-term development and to track progress in the Integrated Results and Resource Framework (IRRF).

We encourage UNICEF to leverage multi-sectoral interventions to achieve protection outcomes. We also encourage UNICEF to invest more strategically in its cluster lead agency responsibilities to leverage cross-sectoral collaboration to improve the quality of responses.

We urge UNICEF to build on the evidence-base for gender-informed policy and programming, by ensuring that gender considerations continue to inform the design, implementation, and monitoring of all its programming and by improving sex- and age-disaggregated data collection and analysis. We encourage UNICEF to expand efforts to engage and empower youth, and persons with disabilities in close collaboration with other UN agencies as appropriate.

We encourage UNICEF to include in the new strategic plan protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment (PSEAH) as a priority across the organization and its programs. In particular, we strongly encourage UNICEF to ensure that meaningful SEA prevention and strong accountability mechanisms are established across all programs. UNICEF should incorporate targeted SEA indicators in the Plan to measure progress and promote accountability.

On management accountability and oversight, we are encouraged to see several IRRF indicators related to tracking the completion of audit and other management review recommendations. We look forward to working with the Board and management to explore ways to include indicators for the implementation of recommendations from program evaluations and Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations.