

FINAL AS DELIVERED
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Excellencies, colleagues:

One-and-a-half years ago, the world came together in the General Assembly to establish the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. It was an historic moment.

But as important as that day was, the next day was even more so. Because that was the day that the Agenda's implementation began — through results that bring to life the promises made in the Sustainable Development Goals. Results seen in the lives of people in every country. Results achieved through collaborative effort — as, thanks to the hard work of so many in this room, the QCPR then reminded us. And today guides us.

We cannot successfully pursue the SDGs without collaboration. Member States. Civil Society. Donors. The business community. Within the UN and beyond it. All of us. Focusing not only on processes, but on the co-ordinated results they help achieve.

As the new Secretary General said at his inauguration: “The United Nations needs to be nimble, efficient and effective. It must focus more on delivery and less on process; more on people and less on bureaucracy.”

So let me repeat here what I have emphasized with the new Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General — UNICEF fully supports implementing the mandate of the QCPR, and supports reforms to make the UN better co-ordinated and more efficient, as emphasized by Amina Mohammed this morning. We are working to do so:

- Through our **Strategic Plan** and consultations with our UN colleagues about it.
- Through increased **collaboration** at the country level.
- And through increased **operational efficiencies** to better deliver on our mandate.

First: in keeping with the QCPR’s commitment to supporting the SDGs — and to “leave no one behind” — our **Strategic Plan** represents UNICEF’s contribution to Agenda 2030 over the next four years.

The Plan, which will be submitted to our Executive Board for discussion in June, and approval in September, is built around results. Specifically, results that will support the achievement of the SDGs in five key areas:

- Every Child Survives and Thrives;
- Every Child Learns;
- Every Child is Protected from Violence & Exploitation;
- Every Child Lives in a Safe & Clean Environment; and
- Every Child has an Equitable Chance in Life.

Each is not only aligned with the SDGs, but interlinked through cross-cutting priorities like equity, gender, children with disabilities, climate change and humanitarian action.

We'll deliver on the Plan through an unrelenting focus on managing for results — and, as always, managing our resources accordingly. That includes an integrated “results and resources” framework to estimate how much will be needed to achieve these results.

And we're working closely with sister agencies like UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women and others to co-ordinate our strategic plans, linking our resources and programming to the 2030 Agenda, while making the most of our comparative advantages while eliminating redundancies.

Which brings me to the second point: in keeping with the QCPR's commitment to **collaboration**, UNICEF will continue to deepen our work within UN country teams around the world.

We've made a strong start. The Standard Operating Procedures have shown that UN agencies not only must, but can work more closely together, and with governments and other partners, with light processes to achieve results.

And Results Groups — one third of which are convened by UNICEF — are increasingly bringing together our respective expertise and programmatic strengths. For example, our work in Guyana with UNFPA and UN Women to advocate for that country's new Sexual Offences Act. Or our work with WFP and UNHCR to develop a co-ordinated response in Yemen, particularly for severely malnourished children. Two recent examples of many.

We also see an opportunity to extend the Results Groups beyond the UN to our many partners. For example, in Morocco, UNICEF worked with UN and non-UN partners in the Education Results Group to leverage additional resources for education sector reform.

Inspired by these kinds of successful collaborations, I believe it's time to enhance the work of Results Groups. We need to do much more to jointly plan, program and monitor and report for results. We could make a start by undertaking a pilot initiative this year in a few countries in which the UN system would conduct joint risk analysis, needs assessments and practical responses. We could return to the ECOSOC next year to measure our progress, learn lessons, and discuss next steps.

Collaboration can also save us precious financial resources. For example, in 2015, our UNICEF country offices reported savings of nearly \$3 million, achieved by sharing business costs with other UN agencies.

And we're one of three agencies leading an initiative to coordinate our fleet of vehicles, which could yield an annual savings of up to \$4 million for UNICEF, while increasing the safety and security of our personnel.

Which brings me to my third point — striving to be ever more **efficient** across our operations. Which is why we've invested in our new Global Shared Services Centre in Budapest to process all of UNICEF's financial and administrative transactions — which will yield savings of about \$25 million annually, starting this year.

Efficiency and effectiveness also mean having the right staff in the right places — and supporting them in every way we can. Which is why we're reforming our Human Resources practices to improve recruitment, talent-management, and performance and evaluation. And why our new Field Results Group will continue to help us align our resources — financial and human — in the field. This includes new simplified procedures for cash transfers...a “scorecard” for country offices to measure performance...and training over 3,000 staff members so far on results-based management.

And just last year, our supply function achieved its largest savings ever — approximately \$520 million — thanks to targeted procurement strategies. This brings the savings achieved for UNICEF and our partners (including governmental and UN partners) to about \$1.5 billion over the last five years.

But as we become more effective within our own organizations...as we deepen our collaboration and coherence with other UN agencies, NGOs and others...as we design and implement our Strategic Plans...and as we translate our commitment to QCPR into practical actions...we must also remember why we're doing so: to help those millions of children and their families being left behind in the march of progress. To achieve results for them. And thus, to heal divisions and help achieve peace.

Because improving the lives of today's children represents not only an important pathway to uphold the UN's credibility and the values that guide us...but the best pathway to a more peaceful world.

I was reminded of this when I was in Colombia recently — a country on the verge of peace. As I contemplated the work ahead, I was reminded that peace is not found only in a diplomatic piece of paper. It will be found in the daily lives of people in the future. In their ability to access health care...nutrition...education...protection. The end of a peace process is the beginning of the real process of building peace.

Around the world, life by life, child by child, community by community — guided by the QCPR and in support of Agenda 2030 — we are investing in children's futures. And thus building peace.
