Statement by Mrs. Bianca Shinn-Desras

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Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations
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Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation, allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau for your leadership and the diligence of the Board.

Allow me to commend UNICEF Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake for his commitment to ensuring continued progress made in the focus areas and specifically in humanitarian action.

Mr. President,

We applaud the report on evaluation of humanitarian action. The role of UNICEF in emergency response is considerable and significant. Humanitarian interventions are challenging and require thoughtfulness while having to remain proactive in a rapidly evolving environment and finding rapid solutions.

Mr. President,

Three years ago, the devastating earthquake in Haiti occurred, that required an organization wide effort from UNICEF and various other organizations to render critical and immediate support. The earthquake represented an inconceivable crisis for the country both socially and economically. UNICEF was one of the first to be on the ground and provided critical support with limited amount of resources. UNICEF played a leading role in ensuring that humanitarian aide was reaching the affected population.

At the commencement of the crisis UNICEF recognized the catastrophe as a “children emergency.” By recognizing the catastrophe in this manner, it encouraged the Haitian government decision makers to think of the disaster not only in terms of monetary capital but also in terms of human capital, specifically children who are of the most vulnerable groups.

The Post Disaster Needs Assessment was a key component in assisting decision makers in identifying critical practical questions, which assisted in directing the attention to long-term effects of the disaster. Social re-building has become a key priority for the Haitian government.

We are currently entering the transitional phase. UNICEF is emphasizing more on the shift from humanitarian assistance towards development. This framework can be considered beneficial to ensuring achievable, sustainable and long-term results for children and their families. However, UNICEF must continue to provide robust humanitarian assistance and outline concisely the definitions of the transitional phase without decreasing funding to critical programs such as nutrition.
Mr. President,

We would like to applaud UNICEF focus on becoming more risk aware than risk-averse. UNICEF demonstrated its ability to take risks by developing the fast-track recruitment process for emergency deployment, which resulted in many lives being saved.

We encourage innovation because it will lead to improved results that can be impactful.

The inclusion of beneficiaries early on and throughout the evaluation process is essential in understanding whether results were achieved and if changes are needed. The involvement of all key stakeholders is an effective and efficient method in assessing impact. This process allows them to express their feelings and a sense of empowerment.

The lessons that can be learned from the devastation that occurred in Haiti are to continue to, keep the needs of vulnerable children at the heart of strategies, reinforce the involvement of the national government in key decisions and thinking outside of the box are critical to achieving the desired outcome.

Mr. President,

Lastly, the Haitian government is committed to the holistic strategies adopted by UNICEF. We commend UNICEF and its staff for their unyielding support for the children and families of Haiti. The Haitian government continues to embrace the strong collaboration with UNICEF. The Haitian delegation would like to express the gratitude of its government who continues to embrace the strong partnership with UNICEF.

Thank you.

Thank you.