Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor. First of all I would like to thank the Executive Director, Ms. Fore, for her very informative statement.

Let me begin by saying that UNICEF continues to be one of Czech Republic’s most important multilateral partners, and we highly value the organization’s focus on protecting and promoting the rights of all children around the globe.
Currently the Czech government has provided 500,000 USD in support of the implementation of the Humanitarian Action for Children in Niger. We are also ready to continue our support to UNICEF programmes for conflict-affected children in Iraq.

My country continues to call for more discussions on UNICEF’s work on humanitarian assistance at the Executive Board. This is first and foremost an issue of transparency and accountability, and we will continue to work with members of the board and UNICEF to seek improvements in this regard.

UNICEF needs funding that is predictable and flexible enough for the organization to have a fair chance to efficiently plan its work and allocate its resources in a way that enables full implementation of all areas of the strategic plan.

We appreciate the strong focus on innovation in the Strategic Plan and the dedication of the Executive Director to scale up new technologies and innovative solutions in every aspect of UNICEF’s work. Furthermore, we welcome UNICEF’s active participation in the UN Innovation Network.

We commend UNICEF’s effort to promote the youth agenda with the new initiative Young People’s Agenda. It is essential to invest in young people’s opportunities, but also to ensure that young people are meaningfully engaged in planning, in decision-making and in implementation of programs.
These two priorities, youth as well as science, technology and innovation, are very close to my heart since they were both also core targets of my recent ECOSOC presidency together with participation of all.

We are persuaded that the ambitious goals of the 2030 agenda cannot be accomplished without the involvement of all stakeholders.

We appreciate that UNICEF and the UN system as a whole are standing firm on its principle of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment. I would like to welcome the establishment of the Independent Task Force.

The Czech Committee for UNICEF raises awareness about the UNICEF’s programs and mobilizes support from the civil society, schools, foundations as well as the private sector. UNICEF ‘s mission is currently supported by more than 55,000 individual Czech citizens, including Jitka Samkova, the author of the first UNICEF card produced in 1947.

Mr. President, in closing, let me assure you that the Czech Republic looks forward to continuing working together with the ultimate vision of leaving no one behind.

*Check against delivery*