STATEMENT

by

H.E. Vasile Andonoski, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the UN

Executive Board of the UNICEF
Second regular session 2015

Item 4: UNICEF Programme cooperation


New York

8 September 2015
Mr. President, Madam Administrator,

Members of the Executive Board,

At the outset let me express satisfaction for having the opportunity to address the second regular session of the Executive Board on item 4 under which the UNICEF country programme for the Republic of Macedonia 2016-2020 is considered.

We are pleased that our mutual cooperation is continuing in a new programming cycle 2016-2020, which is closely developed in consultation with all the relevant stakeholders and will reflect the development needs of the country and our priorities in the next 5 years. The Country Programme will be implemented according to the original contract for cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and UNICEF signed in 1994, which provides the basic framework for cooperation.

The main objective of the program is to support Macedonia's efforts to promote the realization of children's rights with an increased focus on the most marginalized: Roma children, children with disabilities and children victims of violence and abuse. This will be done by reducing the differences that these children face in accessing and using quality services, encourage cross-sectoral cooperation, promoting inclusion and tolerance and respect for multiculturalism and diversity among different segments of the population. The program will contribute to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and for the achievement of sustainable development in 2015. The program will contribute to the implementation of the identified outcomes in the UN National Strategy for partnership and sustainable development for the period 2016-2020, and also it is in line with the strategy for smart sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU by 2020.

Key priorities include child welfare, education and early learning, preventing and dealing with violence against children, social protection and monitoring of children's rights. All programs will include a disability component to promote an inclusive transversal approach with a focus on development, learning and participation of the child, and services that will have the child in their focus. The program has national scope with focus on seven municipalities with the highest density of Roma population.

Mr. President,

In conclusion I would like to underscore the excellent cooperation between the Government and the UNICEF, the regional director Ms. Marie-Pierre Poirier, as well as with the UNICEF Country Team in Macedonia.

Thank you.