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PUNTO 2 –DEBATE GENERAL - JUNTA EJECUTIVA – UNICEF**

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Verificar contra el discurso pronunciado

Excellencies, Members of the Bureau, Members of the Executive Board of UNICEF,

I would like to start by highlighting the positive role of UNICEF in Colombia and its significant support to our national response to the pandemic.

We highly commend its engagement in the humanitarian context, specifically in the fields of education, water and sanitation, and hygiene.

The global and local response to the threat of COVID-19 has been facilitated due to the implementation of the reform of the United Nations Development System.

The reform has set the basis of a valuable process of renewing the relationship of the Agencies, Funds, and Programs with the States, by the strengthening of the inter-agency work, reducing the duplication of efforts, and eliminating the atomization of cooperation.

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In that context, there are some elements that I would like to highlight in this Board Meeting:

1 - Given the forecasts of economic contraction at a global level, it is important to invite all Governments that financially support UNICEF, to continue doing so. This is the only way in which the current projects can advance, and the future ones can begin.

2 - The decrease of regular resources by 4% in 2019, is disturbing. It is necessary to maintain the recommended levels of core resources within the budget to advance during the Decade of Action.

For this reason, it is important to implement innovative forms of financing and to strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

3 - In terms of humanitarian assistance actions, Agencies should work in a more articulated way with the Humanitarian Coordinators at the local level.

4 - Colombia highlights the importance of independent evaluations as impartial mechanisms to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of interventions in the field.

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5 - Regarding the joint proposal on the Cost Recovery Policy, Colombia finds positive that the agencies make modifications in their cost categories to increase transparency and to evidence the financing of activities related to audit.

To conclude, Colombia would like to reiterate its support to UNICEF and looks forward to the adoption of our new CPD, which will focus our future work on the fields of Peace with Legality, migratory challenges, and catalytic SDGs.

Thank you.