

**Intervention by H.E. Mr. Sunil Sitaldin, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Suriname to the United Nations at the at the 1st Regular
Session of the UNICEF Executive Board 2022**

10 February 2022

Thank you, Mr. President for giving me the floor.

- First of all, I would like to thank Ms. Gough, *UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean* for her contribution to develop the new Country Programme Document for Guyana and Suriname, and I would also like to underline the constructive and cooperative efforts of the government of Suriname and UNICEF in this regard.
- The Government of the Republic of Suriname remains committed to work towards the wellbeing of every child in Suriname.
- In this context, several legislative and policy measures have been taken in the area of child protection, addressing gender-based violence, education, health, and other relevant areas.
- In addition, a comprehensive Recovery Plan for the period 2020 – 2022 and a Multi-Year Development Plan have been developed, including measures towards ensuring the wellbeing of children and adolescents.
- The Country Programme Document, as endorsed by my government, is aligned with these undertaken legislative and policy measures.
- We are confident that the implementation of the Country Programme will further assist in ensuring the wellbeing of every child in Suriname.
- Suriname is also pleased to note that the new Country Programme Document is in line with several of the priority areas set out in the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2022-2026 for the English and Dutch speaking countries in the Caribbean.
- We are content with the Country Programme Document's focus on the improvement of physical health and mental wellbeing, the emphasis on social protection for all children, the commitment to the inclusion of the most

vulnerable and marginalised children and the enhancement of education to provide upgraded skills.

Mr. President,

- Suriname is assured that the five target outcomes of the Country Programme Document will contribute to the policy actions undertaken by our government, namely:
 - i. Commitment to strengthening the health and nutrition system to improve outcomes for mothers and children.
 - ii. Implementation evidence-based policies to improve adolescent mental health services and information.
 - iii. Continuation to focus our efforts on early childhood development and education reform.
 - iv. Recognition that a whole-of-society approach is necessary to achieve our objectives, particularly those related to nutrition and violence, abuse, and neglect of children.
 - v. Focus on the collection of statistically sound data on child poverty and other metrics, in order to inform our policy strategies and enhance accountability and transparency.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

- I reiterate Suriname's sincere gratitude for the longstanding cooperation with UNICEF, and for the constructive collaboration on the development of the Country Programme for this period.
- Suriname looks forward to the approval of this Country Program Document by the Executive Board.
- We are ready to engage with UNICEF and national partners to implement this Country Programme together and successfully.

I thank you.