



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

UNICEF GENERAL DEBATE OPENING STATEMENT

STATEMENT BY MR. CLAUDIO NARDI

CHARGÉS D'AFFAIRES, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UN

President,

As Liechtenstein's term on the UNICEF Executive Board concludes, allow me to say what an honor it has been. We especially valued seeing UNICEF's work in action during the field visit to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. Our full support to UNICEF's mandate will continue.

Looking ahead to this session, we welcome the Country Program Documents. These are essential instruments for translating our ambition into practical results for children. We also welcome the Global and Regional Program document as a framework for UNICEF's normative work and trust the programmatic activities it lists will complement and align with existing efforts, including Cooperation Frameworks, to ensure country-level coherence.

President,

As the Future Focus Initiative draws to a close, we recognize it required difficult choices for the organization, its personnel and their families. At the same time, the Initiative made important steps toward a more sustainable, field-oriented organization. We are pleased by the strong

reception of the four Centers of Excellence and progress on digital tools, relocation, and consolidation.

We equally appreciate UNICEF's constructive engagement in the Secretary-General's UN80 initiative. We reiterate the importance of UN country team configurations, linked to expertise-on-demand and the regional reset. Configurations should derive from Cooperation Frameworks and be guided by empowered Resident Coordinators, bringing together the right expertise and capacity for each context, at the right levels.

President,

Over the past five years, Liechtenstein has contributed USD 25 per capita towards UNICEF's emergency and reconstruction assistance. Yet government contributions alone are not sufficient. Support from individuals and the private sector remains essential. In 2025, private sector regular resources rose again, and now provide over half of UNICEF's regular resources — a notable achievement. The National Committees' ability to mobilize sustained and flexible support is a real asset for the organization, and one we look forward to seeing grow further.

President,

In closing, we thank UNICEF, our fellow Board members, and the Secretariat for their partnership throughout this year. Liechtenstein looks forward to a fruitful session of the Executive Board.

I thank you.