• UNICEF continues to **fully support the ambitious reform** of the UN development system, and is actively implementing it –
  o both collectively with our UN Partners (through UNSDG)
  o and as an individual agency (making necessary adjustments and changes to our guidance and processes to ensure full alignment with reform).

• The **reform is proceeding on target**. Much has already been accomplished on a very short timeframe.
  o The challenge now is **tailoring our collaborative approaches to each and every country context** and ensuring there is no one size fits all approach.
  o We must work flexibly and creatively, with a **focus always on the delivery of results**.

• The draft **System Wide Strategic Document** outlines a number of gaps in system-wide capacities and functions. The document shows that more focus is needed, for instance, on **statistics and data**; and **partnerships with all types of actors** – private sector, IFIs, civil society, and governments.

• **On data** – UNICEF has been co-leading the UNSDG workstream on country-level data and reporting, with DESA and ECLAC.
  o This group has been **developing a set of tools and resources for UN Country Teams to use**, specifically to strengthen a harmonized approach to data, deepen support to the data capacity of national governments, and guide in the selection of SDG monitoring platforms and approaches;
  o **UNICEF is preparing an analysis of SDG nationalization**, measuring the extent to which countries have a national set of SDG targets and indicators, especially with reference to children. This will help us gauge the kind of support needed from the UNCT for National Statistical Systems.
  o And at the global level, **we are working with UN partners to develop a clear governance framework** for the statistical system as a whole, and for the UN’s collective work on capacity building. This is the focus right now.

• **On partnerships** – this is at the heart of the reform and the SDGs.
As the System-Wide Strategic Document lays out – we need a more open response to the challenges and solutions ahead of us – with effective partnerships with private, public and civil society actors throughout the whole cycle of the UN’s work.

We rely on partners to fund our work, but we need to move beyond this – looking at how we can leverage and expand our focus to unlocking the public and private financing channels needed for resources to flow at scale.

This has been a major focus within UNICEF, and I have been co-chairing the UNSDG workstream on partnerships, with the Director General of ILO.

We’ve taken steps to ensure a harmonized approach across entities, facilitating collaborative steps by UNCT agencies with the private sector and civil society, right from the Country Analysis and UNDAF phase and throughout the programme cycle.

We look forward to working with the empowered RC offices – with dedicated partnerships capacities – to continue to build flexible and context-specific approaches which really amplify our work and our impact on the ground.

- A word on efficiencies: UNICEF has a long and successful track record in realizing efficiencies, for instance in the area of procurement.
  - In 2018, UNICEF procured $3.5 billion in supplies and services for children in 150 countries and areas.
  - Partnerships, competition, and strategic procurement contributed to price reductions for vaccines and other supplies, saving $350 million for governments and donors.

- We fully support the quest for efficiencies in the context of the ongoing UN development system reform, including the move to common premises and the provision of common backoffice functions where it makes sense.
  - However, it is important to base any action on clear business cases.
  - Some actions (such as moves to common premises) may also require significant upfront investments – so that efficiency gains, which we plan to reinvest in program activities including coordination, may only materialize in the medium to long term.

- I’ll now touch on some of the ways in which we are supporting the roll-out of the new UNSDCF as the primary UN-wide planning instrument at country level:
• We have already made sure that the **Country Assessment (CA) and the UNICEF Situation Analysis are fully synchronized**. The CA will draw on the analysis of individual agencies like UNICEF.
  o We have issued new 2019 guidance on the UNICEF Situation Analysis to ensure a strong contribution to the CA on the situation of the most vulnerable and marginalized children in that country.

• We are **revising UNICEF’s procedures** for Country Programme Documents (CPDs) and the guidance for our Programme Strategy Notes (PSNs) to make sure UNICEF outcomes contribute to the UNDAF outcomes.
  o UNDAF outcomes will be listed verbatim in every UNICEF CPD.

• UNICEF Reps are expected to provide **technical leadership in key areas of the UNDAF** at country level, eg: working groups on inclusive social development; M&E; data; or social protection.

• We are **updating our systems and processes**:  
  o Ensuring UNICEF’s results assessment and monitoring platform is closely aligned to the UNDAF **results-tracking system** (called “UN INFO”), allowing data flow between them.
  o We are updating the **Job Descriptions** of UNICEF Representatives to underscore their roles as UNCT members and their contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework process.