

- UNICEF continues to **fully support the ambitious reform** of the UN development system, and is actively implementing it –
  - both collectively with our UN Partners (through UNSDG)
  - 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.
  - The challenge now is **tailoring our collaborative approaches to each and every country context** and ensuring there is no one size fits all approach.
  - 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.
  - 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;
  - **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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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**:
  - 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.
  - 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.