UNICEF Statement

- UNICEF would like to emphasize the devastating impact of climate change on child health and well-being.

- Climate change is changing children - impacting almost every aspect of child health and well-being from pregnancy to adolescence. The world must keep the 1.5-degree promise, drastically reducing air pollution and promoting healthy diets.

- We must urgently step efforts to protect children by a) Equipping caregivers as they are the first line of defense; b) Strengthening climate-resilient primary health care to ensure continuity in essential services; c) Safeguarding nutritious food, safe water, and social protection; d) Improving preparedness and response to extreme weather events and disease outbreak; and e) Prioritizing child health and wellbeing in climate policy, investment, and action.

- UNICEF stands ready to collaborate with partners from all sectors to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children moving forward!

Global Climate and Health Alliance Statement

The Global Climate and Health Alliance is an alliance of health organizations from around the world, bringing a joint health voice to addressing the climate crisis, with members and partners representing over 40 million health workers worldwide.

Climate change is a cross-cutting threat to health, which not only brings direct impacts but also undermines progress on all other health issues, from non-communicable and infectious diseases, to maternal and child health, to universal health coverage, to mental health. Health is the human face of the climate crisis, and our health systems are starting to buckle under the strain of climate change.

GCHA therefore is deeply gratified by the growing momentum on climate and health, in top multilateral spaces – the UNFCCC, and here in the World Health Assembly. In both the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, and this week’s WHA Climate Resolution, we applaud the call for investment to strengthen our health systems to better respond to climate impacts; and
we equally strongly support the recognition that protecting health requires going far beyond the health sector, and that health *must* be at the table across sectors.

We must note, however, that both the Declaration and the Resolution had one glaring omission, the failure to mention the root cause of climate change, the use of fossil fuels, and the profound conflict of interest represented by having the industries responsible for the climate crisis at the table for solving it. Dr. Tedros, I appreciated your remarks during the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty announcement at COP28 noting that if we do not *speak* about fossil fuels, we will not be able to fully *address* the climate crisis.

As we look ahead to next steps, GCHA also notes the vital importance of building mechanisms for accountability, for all of the commitments taken.

GCHA and the civil society organizations we represent therefore look forward to working with the WHO, the COP28 and COP29 presidencies, Member States, financial leaders, and others to rapidly deliver on the commitments that have been made, and to tackle the root causes of the climate crisis, for the sake of people’s health worldwide.