STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. FERIT HOXHA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALBANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

THE 2013 ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF

“Annual Report of the Executive Director of UNICEF: progress and achievements against the medium term strategic plan”

18 June 2012
Mr. President,
Executive Director Lake,
Distinguished members of the Executive Board,

UNICEF and the Executive Board have gone through much work this year and we are only proud to see that a mutually working, opened and inclusive relationship has been developed over the years and is being maintained throughout the discussions for the foundation of the new strategic plan of UNICEF, this year.

We are particularly pleased to note that progress within UNICEF and the Executive Board, in internal processes as well as in coherence related processes has been enormous, getting us one step closer to the realization of all children’s rights with particular focus on those in need and in vulnerable situations.

The annual report of UNICEF on the progress and achievements against the medium term strategic plan shows an impressive picture of what UNICEF has been doing worldwide and efficiency wise to achieve promising results for millions of children, in areas of child survival and health, education, child protection and advocacy. We would like to commend you, Executive Director Lake, and your team in making use of powerful tools to bridge the gaps to full realization of the rights from children such as the equity approach, use of innovation and technology into national and global operations, strategic and resourceful partnerships to elevate advocacy and action, nationally and globally, the drive for efficiency, transparency and accountability in your operations and management, as well as development effectiveness and results.

Mr. President

We are pleased to see that after extensive consultations to shape the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2014-2107, it finally is a very elaborate document in front of us. We welcome the renewed focus of UNICEF in the equity agenda for children in general and specifically on the most
disadvantaged ones, with particular focus on children with disability. Different forms of disability including children with autism should continue to benefit from the UNICEF commitment, work, positive impact and concrete results, so that we do not deny them the future they are entitled to and the society their undoubted talents.

Mr. President,

The world is running towards the end of poverty, foreseen to be achieved by 2030. This extraordinary expectation is the fruit of continued multiple efforts where UNICEF has its share. But, challenges wont disappear; they will only change in nature. This renewed focus must contribute to the recognition of children’s needs to the post-2015 development agenda. We commend you for very strong human rights based approach orientation of the new strategic plan interlinked with the promise of this organization to make the best of its efforts towards development effectiveness and the coherence process of the UN. We also welcome the strategic plan link to the quadrennial policy review of the UN operational activities and will continue to urge you to create common indicators with other sister agencies to measuring progress in implementing the mandates of the QCPR resolution. We welcome the emphasis on the results based management and the use of MoREs as a tool for identifying challenges and bottlenecks in real time assessments and welcome efforts to make this a widespread and common tool for monitoring and reporting at the country level.

Last but not least, we welcome the strong focus of the new strategic plan on capacity development. Keeping track of progress in this area will be important, bearing in mind that leveraging national potentials of cooperation in planning, engagement and ability to implementing programs and execution of oversight functions over the programmes of cooperation will bring us closer to more sustainable development results. Therefore, we urge UNICEF to keep this continuous and operations wide aim at heart and measure continues progress in this area, which will inform the next generation of interventions and programmes of cooperation.
Mr. President,

With regard to the coherence processes at the UN, we would like to commend UNICEF’s role in the United Nations Development Group work for the formulation of the Standard Operational Procedures for the Delivering as One and will expect to see the same degree of engagement and commitment into their full operationalisation and follow up.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like also note to the Executive Board of UNICEF that Albania has recently ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications procedure, strengthening this way an already consolidated national legislative framework for the children’s rights.

Thank you.