Thank you, Mr. President

At the outset, I would like to thank Executive Director Anthony Lake for his informative and insightful presentation regarding the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP). We are pleased to see progress on many fronts over the past year, including on issues such as child survival and management performance.

In particular, we commend the notable progress made extending water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to unreached populations. We also note UNICEF’s effective support to governments in distributing water treatment and storage system to households in 48 countries. This will go a long way in easing the suffering of a greater number of children from water-borne diseases like diarrhea. We hope that the recently-launched
resource planning system VISION will be successfully settled this year and look forward to progress based on the new system, including increased coordination and efficiency of its programmes on the ground.

Mr. President,

The UN development system as a whole is at a critical juncture. The target year to achieve the MDGs is less than three years away and discussions are now underway to shape the post-2015 development agenda. Against this backdrop, UNICEF has been called upon to exert more concentrated and comprehensive efforts to enhance the results for children based on the MDGs, while actively engaging in the preparation process for the next phase. In this context, my delegation would like to comment on the following three points.

First, we note with satisfaction the contribution made by UNICEF to the process of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review for 2013-2016. We encourage UNICEF to actively implement the recommendations in the QCPR. With complex development challenges ahead of us, the UN development system, including UNICEF, must redouble its efforts to enhance its performance, accountability, and coherence in carrying out its mandate, thus demonstrating its relevance in the field.

In this vein, the follow up of the QCPR should be a priority. It is also of particular importance to establish a Strategic Plan for the period of 2014-2017 to be fully aligned with the guidance provided by the QCPR. My delegation believes that the ongoing efforts to implement the QCPR will facilitate a smooth transition from the current MDG framework to the post-2015 development process.
Second, my delegation would like to encourage UNICEF to further strengthen its efforts to integrate the human rights-based approach in the organization’s work in all sectors and at each stage of the process, including the establishment of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

As recognized in the QCPR, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. In the report “Realizing the Future We Want for All” by the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, human rights are also presented as one of the three core values on which the new development agenda should be founded. Realizing the human rights of every child will lead to greater progress in its equity-focused programmes and policies. Such initiatives seek to understand and address the root causes of inequality faced by the most vulnerable and marginalized children in the world.

This calls for clear guidelines for UN development agencies to follow and indicators for the evaluation of outcomes. In this sense, my delegation believes that there should be more in-depth discussions within the UN system on how to translate normative principles like human rights into operational work in a coherent and effective manner. My delegation encourages UNICEF to make valuable contributions in such discussions, in cooperation with relevant UN agencies.

Last but not least, my delegation notes with satisfaction that UNICEF is leveraging a growing diversity of partnerships with civil society groups, the private sector, and international financial institutions like the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Faced with an evolving development landscape, it is becoming
increasingly critical to pursue and achieve multiple development goals with clear roles and responsibilities based on the comparative advantages of each agency, while simultaneously avoiding overlaps.

Mr. President,

With respect to the innovative partnership, my delegation would like to bring attention to the cooperation with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) that could be a fruitful opportunity to fully utilize each other's comparative advantages. IVI, with its headquarters in Seoul, is the world's only international organization devoted exclusively to the development and introduction of vaccines against deadly infectious diseases to protect the world’s most disadvantaged people, especially children. Considering UNICEF’s active engagement in vaccination activities for children and women, we believe there are shared values and interests for mutual cooperation between UNICEF and IVI.

In conclusion, my delegation appreciates Executive Director Anthony Lake and the UNICEF team for their dedication to delivering results for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and we look forward to achieving even more progress on the discussions of this session at the next Executive Board meeting.

Thank you. /END/