Mr. Chairman,


For the period 2012-2017, Guyana and UNICEF will focus on the implementation of evidence-based programmes of action which support the rights and development of children and women, and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the areas of eliminating poverty and hunger, universal education, gender equality, maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS, with a key emphasis on equity.

Particular emphasis will be placed on increasing the impact of these programmes on children living in Guyana’s hinterland areas, since they have been identified as one of the most vulnerable groups. The focus on these key thematic areas is expected to be reflected in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017 which Guyana sees as an opportunity to reflect on the experience gained and progress made during the implementation of the previous Strategic Plan 2006-2013.

Guyana acknowledges the important foundation laid by the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and UNICEF’s alignment of its Strategic Plan with the results framework of the QCPR guidelines including relevant QCPR indicators.

Mr. Chairman,

With respect to UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017, my delegation wishes to make the following brief comments:-

Guyana supports the equity strategy. This is an ideal approach for the indigenous children of Guyana to allow for equal opportunities as those who reside on the coastland with ready access to education and other such opportunities.
The humanitarian approach is considered an important element of the Strategic Plan as countries in the Caribbean are prone to natural disasters. Guyana also experiences the effects of climate related phenomena- increased flooding, rising sea levels and lower crop yields. Guyana acknowledges the important role of UNICEF in this area.

The need for expanded disaggregated data needs to be addressed as is reflected in this Strategic Plan. The lack of sufficient data prevents the determination of real progress being made in countries. It is imperative that we have plans in place for continuous monitoring of the situation for boys, girls and women in the general population, in the hinterland and rural areas, based on reliable disaggregated data. This data will be used to formulate and continuously update subnational and national plans to guide progress in respective focus areas.

Guyana supports the contention that despite advances over the last five years, inequalities have often widened, resulting in children living in conflict prone areas and fragile economies being at a greater risk. This has particular application in middle income countries where per capita averages often mask significant disparities within the population.

Guyana supports the focus on children living with disabilities, especially in indigenous and minority communities. This also speaks to the principle of equity.

As referenced in the end of cycle report, Guyana wishes to highlight the finding that many countries require on-going UNICEF support in specific focus areas. In this regard it is vital that UNICEF compliments and supports the national programmes to promote the survival, development, protection and participation of children in nation building processes.

In keeping with the progressive nature of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, Guyana supports the identification and promotion of innovation to advance the effectiveness and reach of programmes. The need for early warning systems and advanced technology is reflective of the inequalities that still exist in developing countries. To this end Guyana views favourably the Monitoring and Evaluation and Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning (EPRP) activities.

In shaping the discussions of the Post 2015 agenda, it is important that social inequalities be reflected as a main priority, especially in the area of health, education and the social protection needs of children. In this regard, Guyana reaffirms its support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation as being excellent mechanisms for the sharing of best practices especially within our region. The continuing good work of UNICEF in this area will enable a future generation to carry on the process of sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.