Mr. President:

As the international community intensifies its discussions for a Post-2015 development agenda with the review of current Millennium Development Goals at the core of these discussions, there is not yet clarity on how children will be placed at the heart of this new development agenda.

Children are central in the Millennium Declaration. Let us recall that at the very start of declaring its values and principles, it clearly states that leaders have a collective responsibility to uphold human dignity, equality and equity “especially for the most vulnerable and, in particular the children of the world, to whom the future belongs”.

Today’s debate on children in the post-2015 development agenda is about mainstreaming these vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged groups across the development agenda and setting specific targets to improve their well-being.

As a child focused organization, World Vision is most concerned with what this means for the well-being of the child, the promotion and full realization of their rights. What is the impact of current global landscape on children’s lives and will mainstreaming address this impact?

In this context, the draft UNICEF Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 provides a powerful reference and a compelling way forward for children that must be taken into account for the Post-2015 development agenda.

As it takes stock on the unfinished agenda for children, the strategic approach it outlines based on an equity framework seeks to ensure that the “rights of every child, especially the most disadvantaged” are substantively advanced in the next few years.
World Vision identifies several positive intersections and opportunities for partnership and collaboration with UNICEF in the context of the Strategic Plan across a wide range of issues and results.

As regards to partnership, one specific suggestion we wish to make to UNICEF is to include faith based organizations in the sections on partnering. FBO partnerships have been a critical element in the equity agenda and ability to reach the most marginalized populations as well as address social exclusion and behavior change objectives.

We welcome the focus on equity and the most marginalized children, especially the prioritization of gender, disability and social change approaches to address “bottlenecks or challenges” that affect the realization of rights and well-being. The emphasis on cross cutting themes, integration and cross sectoral linkages to foster synergies for multiple outcomes is excellent, along with integrated monitoring and evaluation.

One observation that we would like to make on child protection systems strengthening is that it is implicit rather than prioritized. The outcome on this regard could be more explicit.

Mr. President:

There are several other comments that we would like to make on health, nutrition, child protection and disability. However, time does not allow for me to expand on those issues. We will, therefore, present them directly to UNICEF.

I do not want to conclude without expressing my organization’s appreciation for the time and space to share our thoughts on such an important strategy for the well-being of the child and thank UNICEF for its continued commitment to making A World Fit for Children.

Thank You.