Statement by China on the report of UNICEF
on Progress on Gender Equality

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation thanks the Executive Director for the report on progress on gender equality. This comprehensive and detailed report contains a summary of progress and achievement in the implementation of the "2012-2013 Plan of Action for Gender Equality", an analysis of existing constraints and challenges as well as specific recommendations.

China appreciates the fact that UNICEF attaches importance to gender equality and advocates gender equality and empowerment of girls as core elements in its strategic plan and its actions for equity. We are also pleased with the appointment of the Principal Advisor for Gender, Rights and Development. All this reflects your resolve to enhance leadership and honor commitments in this field.

China also appreciates the efforts by UNICEF to step up internal oversight and evaluation, and develop and use tools such as Gender Equality Marker and Performance Benchmark to monitor expenditure for gender equality and the implementation of the strategy of gender mainstreaming. We suggest that UNICEF sum up lessons learned in its work and improve the design of various indicators so that they would better fit and reflect situations on the ground and ensure results of gender equality programs.

We welcome the E-learning course on the basics of gender mainstreaming developed by UNICEF and the Fund’s efforts to encourage staff members to take the course. Given the relatively low rate of its utilization, we suggest that UNICEF review and update the content of the
course, so that it will contain both principles and practical skills, which will result in greater relevance and effectiveness. At the same time, there should be incentive and evaluation measures to encourage offices at all levels to increase understanding of the issue of gender and enhance the capacity to use this tool for analysis and assessment.

In our view, UNICEF should continue to play its role as information hub and improve effectively its information management system, which should focus on collecting and analyzing best practices and lessons learned in addressing gender inequality from all its offices and governments, collect the analytical, assessment and monitoring tools developed by different actors with a view to better providing technical support to different countries.

China applauds the close cooperation on gender equality between UNICEF and other UN agencies, especially UN Women. We hope it will further enhance collaboration with other relevant agencies and avoid overlaps, so as to achieve common progress and synergy.

In formulating the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, we encourage UNICEF to make gender equality and empowerment of women and girls cross-cutting elements, and specify the results of gender equality and empowerment in the plan. We welcome the formulation of the plan of action for gender equality for the new cycle, and suggest that in this process, UNICEF remain engaged with governments and its field offices. For both the strategic plan and the action plan to be practical and effective, they should take into account different situations of different countries, respond to their different needs, and adapt to their social conditions and cultures.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.