Statement by HE Ambassador Kunzang C Namgyel, Dy. Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the UN at the UNICEF Executive Board
20 June 2013

Mr. President

Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

Mr. Executive Director,

Madam Regional Director for South Asia,


My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the United Nations Children’s Fund and our development partners for their continued support and assistance to Bhutan’s development efforts.

We thank Ms. Karin Hulshof, UNICEF South Asia Regional Director, for the comprehensive presentation on Bhutan’s Common Country Programme Document. We also thank the UNICEF team in New York and at the country office in Thimphu for their support in drafting the Common Country Programme Document.

Mr. President,

For the last four decades, the UN System and UNICEF in particular, have contributed immensely to the socio economic development of Bhutan and continues to play an important role in our pursuit towards achieving Gross National Happiness.
We note with satisfaction that the Delivering as One approach which has been adopted since 2008 has increased the effectiveness and impact of the work and role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in Bhutan’s development process.

Guided by the principles of Gross National Happiness, Bhutan’s 11th Five Year Plan, covering the period 2013-2018, which also corresponds to the duration of the CCPD, focuses on self-reliance and inclusive green socio economic development. The Royal Government of Bhutan is committed and will strive to meet our national development needs from domestic resources, reduce inequality and achieve carbon neutral development by the end of the 2018.

While, we have experienced continued economic growth, we are largely dependent on grants and a narrow economic base. Thus, despite progress made in a number of social sectors as highlighted in the CCPD, we continue to face multiple challenges of poverty eradication, extreme vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, urbanization, gender equality, youth employment, and multiple emerging issues related to vulnerable groups, such as children, youth, single parents, disabled and old age people.

UNICEF, in consultation with the Royal Government of Bhutan, has reflected these challenges and priorities in the outcomes and outputs of the CCPD. It is fully aligned with the national priorities of the 11th Five Year Plan and will serve as a critical bridge between the final years of the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. The achievement of these outcomes will contribute to Bhutan’s self-reliance and inclusive green socio economic development.

My delegation would like to seek the support of the distinguished members of the Executive Board for the adoption of the draft Common Country Programme Document and looks forward to further enhancing the close partnership that exist between Bhutan and UNICEF in its successful implementation.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.