Mr. President,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the United States, Australia, Italy and my own country Switzerland.

We would like to thank Mr. Kirk and Mr. Chaiban for their presentations. We would also like to thank UNICEF for providing this opportunity to discuss humanitarian action within this Executive Board.

As donors and partners to the international humanitarian response system we need more than ever to demonstrate that our funds lead to clear results; that all are working towards the same objectives and that humanitarian delivery is adequate, speedy and cost effective. We strongly believe that the ability of the humanitarian system to respond to crises in an effective, efficient and timely way is dependent on the extent to which it is able collectively to demonstrate comprehensive results.

We would like to express our appreciation for all the work done by UNICEF in humanitarian situations and for the active role taken by the organization to stimulate system wide response mechanisms within the IASC and to accelerate the humanitarian reform process, and more specifically the transformative agenda.

Feedback from the field indicates that UNICEF has taken-on increased responsibility regarding the cluster coordination and in many countries it is evident that roles are better defined between cluster coordination and UNICEF sectoral management, that UNICEF’s lead clusters attract a large number of partners, that coordination is more effective and while the cost of coordination is high is seems to be worth.

It is important to stress that empowered Humanitarian Coordinators, working with capable Humanitarian Country Teams, are essential to the delivery of lifesaving support to those most in need and we encourage UNICEF to continue to nominate top candidates to the Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator Pools.

We welcome this self critical synthesis report since it allows UNICEF to further improve its ability to identify gaps and face challenges in its humanitarian operations.
This report is a step towards a more strategic approach around the evaluation function in UNICEF and its impact on humanitarian performance.

In terms of programme management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, we also encourage UNICEF to continue strengthening its systems, as it is not yet satisfactory in various countries. Since UNICEF is a major player in emergencies, with around a third of its budget dedicated to humanitarian action, we believe UNICEF should invest more systematically in humanitarian evaluation, with a stronger focus, as highlighted in the report, at field level, and with a stronger focus on results. We fully support as the recommendation that evaluations should have a greater impact at the field level. Hence we would have appreciated if the synthesis report would have provided information on the use and follow-up of the evaluations, more specifically on how many recommendations of the many evaluations reviewed have finally been implemented.

As stressed in the report, we believe that the time has now come for rapid implementation of the Transformative Agenda, with efficient monitoring system in place through detailed benchmarks and deadlines, so that it delivers concrete results and improvements in the field.

Finally, Mr. President, We supports the idea of having humanitarian action regularly discussed at the Executive Board as a formal agenda item and suggests an upcoming session on field based achievements in implementing the transformative agenda.

Thank you Mr. President.