Mr President,

Let me begin by thanking Ms Ghita Gupta for her valuable introductory remarks and Mr Gordon Alexander for his interesting and encouraging presentation. Sweden strongly support UNICEF’s intensified focus on research and learning, and value this opportunity to discuss progress in relation to the strategic framework for research and knowledge management.

In this respect, we are also pleased to see that the Strategic Plan for 2014-17 promotes UNICEF’s profile as a knowledge based organization, articulating the importance of learning and knowledge management and identifying research and evidence generation as vital and integrated parts of key implementing strategies.

It is appreciated that the progress report reflects on how to integrate research and its use in UNICEF’s work, addresses institutional gaps and identifies opportunities for further progress.

We welcome the report’s proposal for deepened research on violence against children and here we would like to encourage UNICEF to also include research on psychosocial matters.

We further welcome the initiative for research on school-based interventions which we believe can be useful for the strengthening of the cross-sectorial approach of the new Strategic Plan.

Sweden would like to stress the relevance and importance of UNICEF’s work to develop improved methods to collect data and statistics on children living with disabilities, an area where the knowledge gaps are huge and evidence about the situation of these children is limited.
We are pleased to see that the report highlights the role of the National Committees in relation to advocacy on children’s rights. Building their activities on well informed grounds contributes to strengthen UNICEF’s outreach and credibility in countries where National Committees are active.

Mr President,

Research needs to be independent. The financing aspects are important in this regard. We are therefore interested in understanding how cross-sectorial issues and implementing strategies in the Strategic Plan - such as research and evidence generation - will be financed? We would also like to hear how the suggested ideas for future directions in the progress report have been translated into the work plan and budget?

Finally, Sweden encourages UNICEF to continue carrying through necessary organizational changes to be equipped accordingly and we look forward to continued collaboration with UNICEF in this area.

Thank you for your attention, Mr President.