STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. FERIT HOXHA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALBANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD
First regular session 2013

Agenda Item 4,

“Report of the Executive Director of the UNICEF
Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council”

5 February 2013
Mr. President,

I wish to first congratulate you, Mr. President, for your election as the President of the Executive Board of UNICEF for 2013, wish you success in leading the board during this year and reiterate our full support and cooperation.

On a second note, I wish to thank the Executive Director Lake for the report to ECOSOC and for his statement, as always, rich, informative and forward-looking. It would be right to state what we believe in my country that under your leadership and together with your team, through renewed efforts and perseverance, UNICEF is doing better and more in improving the lives of the children around the world. The core principles of your work should continue to be impartiality, equity, innovation and accountability. In the same vein, there is no doubt in our mind that the record of this organization would further improve if the expressed desirability and greater efforts towards coherence and effectiveness are not only commitments but also a traceable pattern both in the headquarter and on the ground. The excellent discussion we had this morning with the World Bank on the results of joint efforts and work are only a bright testimony

Mr. President,

Let me now make some remarks on three issues of the report of UNICEF to ECOSOC:

First, on the contribution to national capacity development and development effectiveness. We welcome the efforts of UNICEF to introduce benchmarks to measure country offices performance on capacity development in three levels as outlined by the UNDG guidance: individual; organizational, institutional and community capacity; and enabling environment. We have stated many times that fueling the national capacity building within the developing countries is one of the major enablers of creating sustainability in development and one of means of informing the right programming and policymaking with respect to children. Ensuring that you build capacity in communities prone to poverty,
social problems, and lack of outreach will not only make them visible but also will allow them to build on the assistance provided and continue on their own.

Second, on the Coherence, effectiveness and relevance of the operational activities. We are well aware of the efforts UNICEF has put and continues to show in every discussion on coherence, effectiveness and relevance of the operational activities. We are well aware of the support this agency has provided to the QCPR discussions and negotiations and we welcome the comments the Executive Director made today in this regard. As I have stated yesterday during the Joint Board Meeting, we are eagerly waiting for the Standard Operating Procedures that the UNDG is developing; We would highly appreciate to know how this translates to UNICEF working patterns, and what is UNICEF proposing to make the UN country team deliver faster and ensure results of the programming and implementation. As rightly mentioned, MORES should be a tool to be adopted and adapted by other Agencies.

With respect to the Resident Coordinators, we applaud that UNICEF has fulfilled all of its undertakings in complying with the Management and Accountability Framework. We were wondering why the ratio between full time resident coordinators and resident coordinators in charge was at 10 to 100 in 2011? It would be interesting to know what impedes UNICEF staff to go for a full time job as resident coordinators. While this agency is expecting for other agencies to fulfill completely the issue of the functional firewall, we are wondering if UNICEF can do something to alleviate that by endorsing more resident coordinators coming from UNICEF corpus as well as establishing incentives that the work experience as the resident coordinator or in the resident coordinator’s office can count as a decisive work experience to be considered when applying for position at specific agencies.

To hear that you are trying to harmonize the business practices in so many areas to increase efficiency and realize cost savings is very welcoming. We welcome the ways and means you have found where this cost savings are possible and do not hamper the quality of your work. We would urge you to work in other directions as well. In this regard, the quantification of cost savings is important for us too.
Third and last, on the ways to improve TCPR/QCPR implementation. We are aware that guiding principles of the QCPR resolution will appear in the new medium term strategic plan that will be prepared for this year, beginning its effect only in 2014. In the meanwhile we expect that you fulfill some of the issues that were work in progress within the UNDG when the negotiations started. Implementation of the QCPR resolution should be a priority in the agenda from the headquarters to the country level. Working together with other agencies and develop a harmonized and simplified reporting structure against a common set of measurements of the QCPR implementation is, in our view, of utmost importance.

Thank you