Thailand’s intervention during Item 6: Updated road map to and outline of the medium-term strategic plan for 2014-2017 at 2013 first regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board, 6 February 2013 between 10.00 – 13.00 hrs., Conference Room 3

Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation joins in congratulating you and the members of your Bureau upon your elections. We have no doubt that under your guidance this session of the Executive Board will be brought to a successful conclusion. You can be assured of the Thai delegation’s full support and cooperation.

Thailand would like to express our appreciation to UNICEF for its updated roadmap on the medium-term strategic plan for 2014-2017. We are extremely pleased to see that the medium-term strategic plan carries forward the unfinished agenda of MDGs on health and poverty.

Mr. President,

As equity and basic children rights are the overarching principles that will guide UNICEF in its next medium-term strategic plan, this principle of equity should clearly be integrated into UNICEF’s focus on children’s health. One way to integrate this principle of equity into healthcare services is the provision of universal access to essential health services for children, particularly children in poor families.

Universal health coverage is increasingly being embraced by the international community. This is reflected by the universal health coverage resolution presented by the Foreign Policy and Global Health group which was adopted at UNGA 67. It is also reflected in “the future we want” outcome document as well as the Secretary-General's Global Strategy on Women and Children’s Health. During the Board discussion yesterday we are also particularly pleased to hear that the President of World Bank encourages the international community on scaling up health services across the world through universal health coverage.

Therefore, my delegation hopes that the principle of universal access in health services for children would be given some more emphasis as we develop the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan taking into account each state specificities and the importance in collaboration with the World Health Organization. In our view, universal access to basic and life-saving health service for poor mothers and children is an important tool to realise the goals in the medium-term strategic plan on child survival and children free from AIDS.

Mr. President,

On the issue of results-based management through strengthening monitoring systems, Thailand is pleased to see that the medium term strategic plan focuses in the strengthening of monitoring systems of states. We believe monitoring and evaluation programmes should be undertaken through close collaboration with governments and key stakeholders to get the most accurate results for efficient and effective management of UNICEF programmes.

Promoting children's wellbeing and protecting children pose multidimensional challenges. Thailand is therefore supportive of enhancing partnerships in every levels,
as a key strategy in the new plan. As a member of ASEAN, we look forward to the finalization of the draft Framework for Cooperation between ASEAN and UNICEF. 2015 is not only the deadline for MDGs, but also represents ASEAN's common determination to become one ASEAN Community. We therefore hope that this framework cooperation will support the ASEAN Blueprints in building the ASEAN Community and provide a final push for the realization of child-related MDGs for ASEAN countries.

Finally, let me reiterate that Thailand, as a longstanding partner of UNICEF, will continue our full support to and constructive cooperation with the Board and the organization. Thank you.

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