Since this is the first time Sweden takes the floor we would like to congratulate Ambassador Viinanen, Permanent Representative of Finland to his election as the chair of UNICEF Executive Board. We also congratulate the vice president to their elections.

I deliver this statement on behalf of Norway and my own country Sweden.

We would like to thank ________ for the presentation of the report on the end-of-cycle review of the MTSP for 2006-2013 and the outline of the MTSP for 2014-2017.

We recognize the magnitude of the achievements made during the current MTSP period and the contributions by UNICEF’s professional and dedicated staff, of which many work under demanding or difficult conditions. We would like to extend our sincere appreciations to you all in your work to make the world a better place for children.

We welcome UNICEF’s analyses of the situation of children in the end-of-cycle review of the MTSP for 2006-2013, as well as of the challenges in relation to expected results. We further notice with appreciation that the report follows-up, with concrete proposals, on lessons learned. We agree with the conclusion that the attention to children in vulnerable situations and barriers that impede the realization of the rights of the child must be addressed in the next MTSP.

We would have welcomed deeper analysis on how emergencies have affected children as well as on UNICEF’s responses and results in this regard.

Mr President,

We welcome the draft outline of the strategic plan for 2014-2017. The process so far has been well prepared and open. The draft outline is a very good basis for further discussions. We underscore that the convention on the rights of the child shall continue to be the basis for Unicef’s work and that upstream activities will remain an important part of Unicef’s mandate.

We agree with the emphasis on vulnerability to poverty and discrimination. The current draft MTSP lacks an impact area linked to increased resilience to the consequences of armed conflicts and natural disasters. We suggest that such an impact area be added to capture this kind of vulnerability.
We notice that there are four health related impact areas in the draft, and we suggest that UNICEF considers clustering them.

The draft suggests that protection constitutes a separate impact area, which we welcome. Violence and exploitation risks the child’s survival, health and development. It is also a barrier to demand for services and rights. We therefore encourage UNICEF to work systematically for positive behavior changes and cross-sectorial to integrate relevant aspects of child protection into other impact areas.

The complexity of child protection requires well informed interventions and it is therefore important to invest in institutional competence and research.

We welcome that greater attention will be directed to adolescent girls and boys. The right to information and meaningful participation is important for all children. We would therefore like see more emphasis on participation in the MTSP and reflected in the results framework.

The cross-cutting issues human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability are crucial for sustainable results. At present, there is not enough focus on these issues and it would be helpful if UNICEF could further explain how these issues will be integrated and resourced under each focus area, followed-up and reported on.

Regarding humanitarian action, we fully agree with the comments made by Finland, including the necessity to have separate objectives, indicators and reporting to track humanitarian results and funding.

Furthermore, all programs and activities, not least in fragile country contexts and humanitarian situations, need to be based on solid situation and need analyses.

UNICEF’s mandate – to support the realization of the rights of the child – includes all children, regardless of whether they live in developing or developed countries. Hence, we strongly support UNICEF’s intention to co-operate more closely with the UN treaty body system, and to use its recommendations in its advocacy work.

Strategic partnerships and advocacy will contribute to better and more sustainable results and may also save costs for UNICEF. We would suggest that the MTSP outlines the value added of different types of partnerships, in line with UNICEF’s new partnership strategy. At the country level, we encourage UNICEF to seek collaboration with the Resident Coordinator and other parts of the UN Country Team in the implementation and dialogue. We underline the importance of the MTSP reflecting the outcome of the QCPR.

The results framework will be the tool to show how the mandate is implemented and how the priorities are linked to short and long-term achievements and will also form the basis for systematic organization-wide reporting. UNICEF needs to develop measurable and high quality indicators with baselines, based on disaggregated data.
Furthermore, the result framework should clearly demonstrate the linkages between the different levels of results and between expected results and budget. Building up institutional as well as national capacity in monitoring and evaluation is very important. Continued improvements in methods for measuring results in the areas of capacity building and policy advice are needed.

In the continued work and drafting of the MTSP and its result framework, we encourage UNICEF to use all available expertise within UNICEF, its sister UN organizations, member states and program countries, including making the full use of the Peer Group established.

We further expect UNICEF to coordinate closely with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women to ensure the use of consistent and harmonized results concepts, definitions and approaches, as this will facilitate cooperation including within the framework of Delivering as One at country level.

We are looking forward to a continued, constructive process with consultations open to all board members.

Thank you Mr President