Statement during the First Regular session of UNICEF Executive Board
on agenda item 6: Update road map to and outline of the medium-term strategic plan


Mr. President
Members of the Executive Board
Friends from UNICEF

Let me start by thanking you and the members of the Board for giving my organization
the opportunity to provide our views on UNICEF’s medium-term strategic plan for 2014

The updated road map and outline of the MTSP presented today is evidently the result
of a thorough analysis of the current landscape and its implications for children,
evaluations of the road traveled in the soon to end MTSP and, among other things,
consultations, some of which my organization has been a part of.

As we have stated before in this Board, World Vision places high value in our
partnership with UNICEF. We believe that bringing our strengths, technical expertise
and commitment together for the well-being and rights of the child and in the framework
of results oriented partnership strategy will ultimately lead to achieving goals and targets
for children.

We are pleased to see a renewed emphasis on partnerships and wish to call on this
Board and on UNICEF to continue building and strengthening partnerships across
sectors with equal importance. If we want make a difference in children’s lives, we must
bring all sectors on board: the private sector, civil society, academia, faith based organizations, etc. And among all these, civil society continues to be a mobilizing force that reaches far into communities and to the most vulnerable.

Mr. President.

The distinguished delegate of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the African group, reminded us yesterday about the numerous processes that Member States have on their agenda this year and how the substantive discussions this Board initiates with this 1st regular session are framed in that context. He reminded us that these processes will ultimately – and I quote – “redefine future development for children”. My organization could not agree more.

One of such processes, the Post-2015 development agenda faces the challenge of having to respond both to a changed landscape and a long list of unfinished business, such as the MDGs and the Plan of Action for Children, better known as the World Fit for Children. We must ensure that this new agenda places children at the core of its Vision, Principles and Goals.

It is encouraging for World Vision to have listened to members of this Board making energetic calls to guarantee that the best interest of the child must be high up in the next development agenda. Calls that I am confident will be taken seriously.

Mr. President. We must not get distracted when it comes to the well-being and rights of children and World Vision stands ready to support UNICEF, in the context of the MTSP for 2014-2017 when working on the centrality of the child. Thank You.