Mr. President,

The Government of Japan is pleased to impart its contributions to UNICEF for 2013 to the Member States of the Executive Board.

First of all, our Government submitted its budget proposal for Japanese Fiscal Year 2013 to the Diet of Japan, including a contribution to the UNICEF budget in the amount of 22.7 million US dollars. This amount will be available upon approval by the Diet.

Second, the Government of Japan also submitted its supplementary budget proposal for Japanese Fiscal Year 2012 to the Diet of Japan, including a contribution to the UNICEF’s humanitarian activities in the total amount of 189.5 million US dollars. This contribution includes 153.9 million US dollars for humanitarian assistance for African countries, 7.0 million US dollars for humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and 28.6 million US dollars for humanitarian assistance to the Middle East. The assistance for Africa is scheduled to be distributed to 29 African countries including those where the population is suffering from severe problems in food supply and production.

Finally, the Government of Japan will hold the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in Japan, from 1 to 3 June 2013. TICAD is a conference that brings together leaders of various stakeholders from around the world, including African countries, donor countries, international and regional organizations, and civil society organizations. We hope that TICAD V will contribute to the development of African countries in cooperation with all the participants. The Government of Japan is strongly committed to the development of Africa through various means including the TICAD process and the aforementioned assistance.

The Government of Japan requests UNICEF to make every effort to ensure the most effective use of these contributions to its activities.

I thank you Mr. President.