New Zealand Statement

UNICEF First Regular Session of the Executive Board: Item 13 Pledging Event

7 February 2013

STEPHANIE LEE, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Tena koutu, tena koutu, tena koutu katoa

[Greeting of welcome in New Zealand Maori language]

The United Nations Children’s Fund is an important multilateral partner for New Zealand, particularly in its work strengthening and supporting regional, national and local development objectives.

New Zealand is committed to providing predictable and flexible funding. We provide a significant proportion of our funding as core funding, and are extending the number of multi-year arrangements we have with the funds and programmes. We are also committed to improving the quality of funding across the UN development system.

We were pleased that the QCPR provided a clear consensus on ways to improve the quality and quantity of funding in the coming years, including full cost recovery.

As this is the only time New Zealand will take the floor during the First Regular Session, permit me to make two brief comments in our national capacity on the cost recovery proposal.

First, as country whose multilateral contributions are largely for core funding, we commend UNICEF for its role in the cross agency work on the proposal to significantly reduce the cross subsidisation of core to non-core resources.

Secondly, we are supportive of the inclusion of measures to introduce cost-sharing in high-risk environments, where the usual checks and balances are not able to be instituted but where humanitarian needs cannot be ignored. New Zealand looks forward to continuing our discussions with UNICEF on this topic at the bilateral level.
Finally, Mr President,

I would like to announce that New Zealand intends to maintain its contribution of NZD 6 million, or approximately USD 5 million, to UNICEF core resources for 2013.

New Zealand offers its support to UNICEF and to the Executive Director, Mr Tony Lake, for the year ahead.