New Zealand Statement
UNICEF Executive Board, Annual Session
13 June 2017

Mr President

New Zealand joins others in congratulating UNICEF on another year of successful programming and policy advocacy for children globally.

UNICEF has produced an informative annual report and data companion, and generally strong results achieved in a difficult global context for children.

We congratulate UNICEF on the positive assessment it received in the recent MOPAN institutional assessment.

We are pleased to see the increase in UNICEF’s core funding received from donors. This represents a global understanding that investing in children is very good value for money. We are glad to see UNICEF’s efforts to broaden its donor base and encourage countries with capacity to contribute to UNICEF’s operational budget in their country, to do so to the maximum extent possible.

New Zealand appreciates the emphasis the draft Strategic Plan places on both collaborative and comparative advantage, although we hope for clearer definition in the final plan regarding areas of collaboration.

We are pleased to see that UNICEF has over reached its target for country offices that apply standard operating principles for “Delivering as One”.

We agree with the focus of the draft Strategic Plan on targeting the most disadvantaged children and on improving equity measurement through collection of data disaggregated by more aspects of disadvantage than
gender alone. We also support the plan’s focus on strengthening of national systems.

We support the proposal for three cross cutting issues: gender, humanitarian and partnership. New Zealand considers human rights to be fundamental to UNICEF’s mandate and expects this to be evident across all its programming.

We encourage UNICEF to respond proactively to climate change as part of its risk management approach and in terms of research, evaluation, and policy advice.

New Zealand, along with others, would like to see more comprehensive reporting to the Executive Board regarding its humanitarian work.

The draft Strategic Plan directly addresses violence against children which is an issue for many countries. We strongly support UNICEF’s conclusion that integrated programming is essential in protecting children against violence and the effective referral pathways between the child protection and social protection, education and health systems.

New Zealand would like to see UNICEF meet its target of evaluation spending of 1% of total budget and improve its evaluation coverage, noting with appreciation that UNICEF is getting closer to this target. We would like to see more focus on evaluation related to the thematic outcome area of social inclusion, as this has seen fewer evaluations than other areas.

We value the critical role played by UNICEF in the Pacific region and in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In this context, we appreciated greatly our recent high-level consultations with UNICEF in Fiji. We look forward to further useful exchanges both globally and in the Pacific, including on the draft multi-country programme plan.

New Zealand is pleased to see UNICEF providing additional resources to the Pacific Multicountry Office from 2018-2022 in line with policy
established by the Executive Board. We will watch closely the resources’ arrival and distribution across the six component areas identified in the draft multi-country plan.

In addition to our core funding, New Zealand is a significant contributor to the work of UNICEF through funding for specific health related activities in the Pacific. This work relates closely to New Zealand’s Pacific objectives and we commend your efforts at supporting the region to keep children free from polio, measles and hepatitis B infection, delivering an expanded programme on immunisation, and supporting better nutrition and newborn health.

New Zealand appreciates the work of UNICEF in responding to natural disasters in the Pacific. We welcome the contribution of UNICEF in its collaboration with the Pacific Disability Forum on the Tropical Cyclone Winston Disability Needs Assessment. This assessment undertaken in July last year provides a foundation on which to improve access to services for people with disabilities in future.

In conclusion, Mr President, New Zealand will continue to stand by, and support, the Executive Director and his team in the implementation of your essential and effective work.

Thank you.