Item 3: Annual Report for 2016 of the Executive Director

National Statement Germany

Mr. President, Executive Director, Members of the Executive Board and distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by thanking the Executive Director for his introductory remarks and for the presentation of the annual report on UNICEF’s results for 2016. We wish to express our strong support for the crucial work of UNICEF and its staff and would particularly like to thank those engaged in challenging operating environments around the globe for their tireless efforts.

We welcome the progress made by UNICEF towards the achievement of the seven outcomes of its current Strategic Plan. Please allow a few comments on some of the outcome areas.

HIV/AIDS

We noted with some concern the relatively slow progress in outcome area HIV/AIDS and the very limited financial resources. We commend UNICEFs for its recent efforts to establish new partnerships in this area and for its new Global Vision and Strategic Direction of its HIV Response.

Education

We highly appreciate the achievements in education in 2016. However, a lot remains to be done. UNICEF plays a crucial role in improving the access to and quality of education for children worldwide, in particular against the background of current emergencies. Germany collaborates closely with UNICEF in this area and is a strong supporter to education programmes in the context of the Syria crisis. Let me here also express our great respect for the immense efforts by the governments and populations of the neighboring countries, whom UNICEF supports in their work to provide education to all children in their countries.

Nutrition

Mr. Lake’s report also highlights the results achieved in nutrition in 2016. The treatment of 4.4 million cases of severe acute malnutrition, for example, shows the impressive reach of UNICEF programmes and their vital importance for the most disadvantaged children. Germany particularly appreciates the effective collaboration with UNICEF in responding to EL-Nino related drought and food insecurity amid complex crises in Southern and Eastern Africa. Here, more than ever, close collaboration with other partners is crucial and we encourage UNICEF to pilot innovative ways of working and feedback lessons-learnt into programming, for example from the 40 Mio. EUR joint pilot project with WFP in Somalia to be funded by Germany this year.
In this regard, we also congratulate UNICEF to successfully leading the global nutrition cluster in humanitarian situations as well as the WASH and education clusters.

**Further remarks on Humanitarian action**

Responding rapidly and effectively to humanitarian emergencies and complex and protracted crises poses an ever greater global challenge. Germany is a strong supporter of UNICEF’s indispensable work in the difficult working environments of crisis and fragility. With humanitarian access often under threat, UNICEF’s efforts to provide principled humanitarian assistance are crucial. At the same time, increasing humanitarian needs and the growing complexity and duration of today’s crises demand strong efforts to reduce the humanitarian caseload. Current processes such as the World Humanitarian Summit follow-up and the Grand Bargain are therefore important.

The annual report shows that achievement rates for UNICEF’s goals in humanitarian contexts remain relatively low. Therefore, we encourage UNICEF to elaborate and present strategies on how it aims to work in and respond better to contexts of crisis and fragility. As part of such strategies, Germany encourages UNICEF to illustrate how it plans to ensure the provision of principled, life-saving humanitarian assistance as crucial part of its response to crises. We are in particular looking forward to more information on UNICEF’s strategy to gain humanitarian access in fragile contexts. Moreover, UNICEF with its dual mandate is well positioned to link humanitarian assistance with resilience-building and longer-term development interventions. We therefore call on UNICEF to elaborate its strategy to better complement and link humanitarian and development programming and thereby help people withstand, overcome and prevent crises.

**Agenda 2030, UN-coherence, SP**

Mr. President, looking forward, this is a particularly important year for UNICEF and member states as UNICEF elaborates its vision for the upcoming 4 years, the new Strategic Plan 2018-2021. We thank UNICEF for the efforts to proactively integrate member states’ feedback during the process leading up to the current draft.

The alignment of the new Strategic Plan with the Agenda 2030 and its simultaneous elaboration with other Funds and Programmes provide a unique opportunity for strengthening coherence across the global development community, within the UN but also with UNICEF’s bilateral partners, to jointly address today’s challenges.

Germany congratulates UNICEF on its efforts in this regard, reflected in the common chapter. However, we would like to reiterate that more needs to be done to achieve and reflect in the
Strategic Plan a clear division of work between UN entities and to derive concrete actions to improve cooperation at all levels.

We commend UNICEF for its achievement rates of QCPR indicators and would like to re-emphasize the importance of including common indicators drawn from the QCPR in the new Results Framework. For the achievement of current and future QCPR indicators, UNICEF country offices are crucial and close monitoring is needed, including through intensified efforts by the regional offices.

Conclusion

Mr. President, to conclude, let me once again emphasize that UNICEF is a highly valued partner for Germany. We look forward to continuing our close cooperation to ensure children’s rights are protected, children’s specific needs are fully taken into account and addressed in humanitarian crises, and all children are provided a fair chance in life. For now, I look forward to a productive annual session and fruitful discussions with UNICEF and other member states.

Thank you