Statement by delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran

Executive Board of UNICEF: Annual Session

(New York, 13-16 June 2017)

Please check against delivery

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the merciful,

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the UNICEF Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake, for his comprehensive statement on the activities of the Organization. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with the documents for this Session.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the significant role and commitment of UNICEF for the well-being of children across the world. We underscore the activities and innovative approaches of UNICEF in protecting the future generation. UNICEF has made serious efforts to reach out to children where the assistance is needed most: areas with enormous challenges and difficulties as natural disasters, refugees and protracted armed-conflict.

We are encouraged to observe the progress and achievements made by UNICEF in recent years in both development and humanitarian areas of concern. As the report of the Executive Director for the year 2016 indicates, through the support of the UNICEF, important results achieved for children in the seven outcome areas of the Strategic Plan. However, we concur with the report that greater challenges and sharp disparities yet to be overcome.
While draft of the next Strategic Plans being considered by the Executive Board, the necessity of its alignment with the overarching Sustainable Development Goals - which made eradication of poverty a top priority of the Agenda- cannot be overemphasized.

Mr. President,

The significant role of the UN development system including UNICEF is well recognized in our common endeavor towards the effective and inclusive implementation of the relevant SDGs. Having built upon the experience and knowledge, UNICEF can continue to be a relevant trusted partner at the country-level in support of national development plans and national priorities, in particular through the Country Program Documents as well as implementation of the SDGs, in a broader scope.

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review(QCPR) set the scope of relevant activities that UN development system should deliver in line with the expectations of the member states. It is important to recall the guidelines and mandates embedded in the QCPR to be delivered by the UN development system. In this context, we welcome UNICEF efforts to adapt to new changes and environment. We encourage UNICEF to continue responding to the needs of developing countries upon their requests and with full respect to the principle of country ownership.

Mr. President,
Ensuring adequate funding and required core resource are key to the implementation of next Strategic Plan. The downward trend in regular resources in recent years, which also affect a number of other entities in the UNDG, is of serious concern.

The steady evolution of South-South cooperation as a preferred vehicle in international development system cannot be underestimated. With its strong magnitude South-South cooperation has expanded into new spheres, leading to the establishment of new partnerships at various levels. As an instrumental contribution to the work of UNICEF, South-South cooperation should be incorporated in the next Strategic Plan as a voluntary and complementary source.

In conclusion, while reiterating the crucial element of national ownership and national leadership in cooperation with UNICEF, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to constructively engaged in interaction with UNICEF and other UN development agencies.

I thank you Mr. President