UNICEF Executive Board, Annual Regular Session
13 June 2017

Statement on the UNICEF Annual Report

Delivered by Ambassador Caitlin Wilson
Deputy Permanent Representative, Australian Mission to the United Nations

Thank you Mr President,

First, many thanks to the Executive Director Anthony Lake for his Annual Report, and for his ongoing leadership of UNICEF.

2017 is a significant year. It is one in which the United Nations and its senior leadership require dedication, foresight and an ability to work together more seamlessly than ever before. Together, we need to stand by our common values and move beyond business as usual to implement our shared visions of a better future for all, particularly children.

Before talking too much about the future however, I would like to acknowledge the results of the past and the tireless work of so many UNICEF staff in 2016, many of whom are working in incredibly difficult and dangerous conditions and continuing to
2) System strengthening – UN Reform and common chapeau

Second, we think there is more to do in terms of the common chapeau work across the Strategic Plans.

The SDGs, QCPR and current fit-for-purpose conversations have reiterated a fact we all know, which is that there is a large gap between where we are now and where we need to be to achieve our shared ambition.

The UN family, and UNICEF as a senior, influential and financially diversified member of that family, has a key role to play in this.

Each of the New York-based Funds and Programs plays a critical leadership role in the system in both the development and humanitarian spheres, and we have delivered the same message to each member.

Namely, the draft common chapeau is a strong first step, but it could be significantly improved ahead of the September boards and again at the mid-term reviews of these strategic plans.

Its articulation of the SDG narrative, and key areas around data, what it means to be catalytic and the humanitarian-development nexus are examples of where we think more could be done. We look forward to discussing these issues in the coming weeks.
are not sufficient anymore. The nexus demonstrates clearly that many governments and public institutions, including development banks and emerging institutions, are struggling to find the right calibration between building resilience to shocks and responding to the pressures that exist today.

All these challenges require an emphasis on transparency, partnership, strategy and innovation.

In order to build momentum, we need better access to data and information, to trends and solutions.

We therefore need more clarity on UNICEF’s humanitarian investments – from budget reporting lines, written and oral updates of the Executive Board and stronger ongoing inputs around developing the humanitarian-development nexus. This will help us to improve long-term decision making around where to invest our collective financing, policy thinking and tools and political efforts.

Australia looks forward to continued engagement with UNICEF as a long trusted partner and is committed to working closely with Executive Board members in this important year.

Thank you.