I thank the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director of UNICEF for their opening statements and express our appreciation for UNICEF’s continued commitment and remarkable effort in promoting the global agenda for children.

This Annual session is taking place at a time of elaborating new strategic plans for all UN funds and programs. In this respect we underline the importance of ensuring increased coherence, coordination and efficiency in the operational work of the Funds and Programmes.

As in all other cases, the UNICEF Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 needs the genuine capacity of translating the vision and objectives of the 2030 Agenda into specific and targeted set of activities in its respective mandate, field of expertise and activities. Furthermore, the new Strategic plan is elaborated at a time of increased focus of the overall UN system to humanitarian emergencies, crises, and large movements of people. We welcome the coherent approach to five Goal Areas in the Strategic plan, setting out specific and measurable goals for children, especially the most disadvantaged, and reflecting the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. We also underline the importance of continued focus and effort on the part of the UNICEF to engage the private sector and the civil society as important partners in development and humanitarian agenda for children.
Mr President,

The UNICEF should continue to attach primary focus to its role as an important partner to member states in providing assistance for the strengthening of their national capacities, domestic resource mobilization and access to different external funding resources. The recent UNICEF CPD for Armenia (2016-2020) highlights the need for further investment in inter-sectoral cooperation, as well as to reinforce childcare system policies with integrated health, social protection and inclusive education reforms.

Strengthening social protection for children and promoting their empowerment remains a critical priority for the Government of Armenia. On 4 May 2017 the Government of Armenia approved the National Strategy on the Protection of Human Rights, which includes a separate section on the protection of the rights of the child. One key element in that Section relates to the signing of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, which will allow children to bring complaints directly to the Committee on the Rights of Child. Armenia is currently elaborating a Strategic Plan on “Children’s Rights” for 2017-2021. A separate department for the protection of the rights of the child is operating in the office of the Ombudsman, which is tasked to address shortcomings in the domestic legal system for the protection of the rights of the child, to monitor complaints on the violations of such rights, as well as to study and apply international experience and good practices in the in the field of protection of the rights of the child.

Finally, Armenia attaches high priority to the role of quality and creative education for the advancement and empowerment of children and adolescents. Armenia is ready to share experience in this field with its partners, including within the United Nations. We look forward to the upcoming High Level event initiated by the President of the General Assembly on the theme of Education to take place on 28 June.

Thank you.