Joint-Statement Item 7


• I deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the USA and my own country Germany.


• We welcome the improvements in evaluation highlighted by the annual report, in particular the increased number of evaluations conducted in 2016, as well as the very high management response rate. We do however support management’s own suggestion to examine why some evaluations are not followed up in this way.

• We are pleased to see UNICEF’s contribution of funding and technical support to the independent system-wide evaluation of United Nations operational activities for development, and we encourage UNICEF’s continued engagement with UN Evaluations Group.

• We also commend UNICEF on its strong role in evaluation coherence at the global level, and its partnership with key evaluation organizations, such as EvalPartners, the Global Parliamentarians’ Forum for Evaluation, and the Eurasian Regional Parliamentarians’ Forum for Evaluation.

• We thus look forward to an open discussion of the peer review of the evaluation function, expected after the summer.

• A steadfast commitment to continuous learning and thus improvement of UNICEF’s work must be grounded in a comprehensive, thorough, assertive and independent evaluation function. This should include presenting all relevant documents, including major strategic evaluations themselves, for decision to the Executive Board to allow it to fulfil its oversight role. Furthermore, we encourage UNICEF to continue to make sure that lessons learned and recommendations are widely shared within the organisation as well as with other relevant stakeholders.

• The Annual Report identifies a number of further areas for improvement and offers pertinent recommendations. We welcome UNICEF’s management response, especially with regard to the ambition to increase evaluation coverage of all regions and cross-cutting issues.

• We would like to highlight that gender equality should receive particular attention in order to improve evidence-based mainstreaming across UNICEF’s work. We commend the increasing quality of evaluations with regards to UNSWAP criteria. However, it is important that gender analysis is also used to inform findings, conclusions and recommendations in the evaluations.

• Areas of large resource mobilisation must also be targets for regular evaluations, and we are therefore glad to see that two thematic evaluations on humanitarian assistance are planned for 2017. We encourage UNICEF to increase the overall number of evaluations on humanitarian assistance and its nexus with development programming to the same level as the budget share.

• Impact level evaluations should also be strengthened, as highlighted in the annual report.
• The role of regional and country offices is fundamental in implementing evaluation recommendations and incorporating lessons learned into programming. UNICEF should thus more strongly engage all of its management levels in evaluations and their follow-up.

• Given the importance of the evaluation function for UNICEF’s institutional strengthening, including more effective programming, we reiterate the spending goal of 1% of UNICEF programme expenditure on evaluations and ask UNICEF to present plans towards meeting it.

• The Review of Development Effectiveness provides a very useful and welcomed analysis, as well as a number of specific recommendations for strengthening UNICEF’s overall development effectiveness, particularly in the areas of results-based management, gender-based analysis, and innovation.

• We would like to point out that many of the Reviews findings are also reflected in the MOPAN assessment, giving extra weight to the need for addressing the areas for improvement laid out in both reports.

• We urge UNICEF to commit to concrete actions to implement the Review’s recommendations, and to reflect these in the Strategic Plan and Results Framework.

• In line with the QCPR’s focus on harmonizing requirements across the UN system with regards to reporting, monitoring and evaluation, we would like to see UNICEF strengthen its results-based management frameworks to the level we have come to see from other UN agencies. As of yet, the draft Results Framework does not adequately reflect the UN Development System’s guidelines, with a clear theory of change from outputs to outcomes.

• As we move towards joint impacts at the SDG level, UNICEF will still need to be able to communicate its unique contribution to these higher-level outcomes and provide the evidence base to tell a compelling results story.

• Mr. President, to conclude we would like to congratulate UNICEF: The Review confirms the high relevance of UNICEF’s work, while the annual report on the evaluation function reflects UNICEF’s commitment to continuous improvements in its way of working.

• We look forward to engaging constructively on these issues as members of the Executive Board.

• Thank you for your attention.