Mr. President, Executive Director Fore, my fellow National Committee colleagues, distinguished delegates;

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Executive Director’s message this morning. Since I will be speaking later during this meeting, I will limit myself to one issue which the Executive Director raised, and which is of the utmost importance to the National Committee family – the 1% levy proposed on Other Resources.

UNICEF National Committees want to do all we can to help children. We are proud of UNICEF’s place in the United Nations and support Executive Director Fore’s leadership in the UNDS reform agenda, which will advance efficiency and effectiveness.

However, I must say on behalf of the National Committees, that we cannot support the 1% levy on Other Resources raised from the private sector. Many of our private sector partners tell us that overhead costs are already very high, and an increase of 1% will make them less likely to support our work. This 1% levy will result in less Other Resources, less Regular Resources or both.

If we want to raise more money and increase our engagement with the private sector, this tactic will be counterproductive.

The way to raise more money and increase our engagement with the private sector is to better coordinate our communication and outreach to the private sector, to continue our excellent programs, and find more efficiencies in the way we work. National Committee colleagues engage with the private sector every single day, working to convince them to join together with UNICEF to build a better world for children. And from experience I can assure you that asking the private sector to contribute more to United Nations overhead – for that is how they will see it – will mean that more
companies will choose other partners, and our request for this levy will only reinforce their perception of the United Nations as bloated and inefficient.

For those who decide to stay with us, National Committees may be forced to convert Regular Resources into Other Resources to pay for the extra 1% ourselves. And this would come at a time when government donors, with few exceptions, are reducing their unrestricted contributions and UNICEF is asking National Committees to deliver more Regular Resources.

As well as this practical reason, there is another which is one of principle and that is the principle of “no taxation without representation”. This levy is taxing the private sector, and they have no representation on the Executive Board. Their support to UNICEF is voluntary and discretionary, and if we want that support to continue and grow, we must not levy the 1% tax on their Other Resources contribution.

Thank you.

David Morley  
Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees  
President and CEO – UNICEF Canada