Item 9: Swiss Statement on Structured Dialogue on Financing Results

Mister President,

We welcome the proposals made by UNICEF for the Structured Financing Dialogue. We support in particular two key elements that will require more focus in the coming years. First, we believe that the leveraging of domestic resources with a focus on children from both the public and private sector is one of the game changer for the achievement of the UNICEF Strategic Plan and the SDGs. This is critical in countries that have difficulty mobilizing funds from traditional resource partners. In order to increase the efficiency of this strategy, we suggest UNICEF to put in place a system to track comprehensively these flows and use it as an advocacy tool. Secondly, we welcome UNICEF focus on multi-stakeholder partnerships that aim to raise awareness and influence businesses in respecting and promoting on children’s rights into standards, policies and regulations. We are confident that a UNICEF sustained engagement with business sector will have high returns for the benefits of children worldwide. Finally we expect UNICEF, in collaboration with the other UN Funds and Programmes, to continue to include cross-cutting funding issues on the agenda.
On the implementation of the UNDS reform, we expect UNICEF to actively support the system wide approach at country level by contributing to the development of the UN-DAF, the setup of harmonized business processes and common services. For that purpose, UNICEF should further deepen the collaboration between its country offices and the UN system. We also would like to see UNICEF engage more in joint programmes and funding with other UN agencies. In addition, the decisions on revitalizing the Resident Coordinator will have funding implications for each agency of the UN development system. We commend UNICEF to already include a preliminary step with the indicative provision of an additional $13 million in its institutional budget to meet the costsharing requirement set out in the resolution on UNDS reform. Further adaptations will need to be made to the budget over the next years for the implementation of the 1% levy. We stand ready to support UNICEF in making sure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

In view of improving the quality of our own funding to the UN system, Switzerland has been a long standing contributor of core funds. In addition, we have been making great efforts to align our funding to a large extent to the duration of the Strategic Plans of the organisations and to ensure predictability through multi-year commitments. We are pleased to announce that our Federal Council has approved core funding to UNICEF of 59.6 million USD for 2018-2021.

Thank you for your attention.