Mr. President,

On behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Switzerland we would like to thank the PFP Director, Gary Stahl, for his presentation and for the information covered in the financial report and statement for the year ending December 31, 2017.

We are pleased to note that the 2017 financial year ended positively compared with the actual 2016. In total USD 1.46 billion were generated, USD 663 million for Regular Resources and CHF 803 million for Other Resources. Thus PFP almost fulfilled the 2017 budget target of USD 1.48 billion, including an increase of 3 percent compared to the 2016 budget. We are very pleased that income from Regular Resources increased by almost 6 percent due to the magnificent Pledge Programme, achieving the highest result ever. Income for Other Resources fell slightly behind its budget target. Nevertheless, it achieved an increase of almost USD 100 million, or 13 percent, which was especially the result of Emergency donations. The result reflects the solid performance of the National Committees, Field Offices and PFP. It is also an expression of the solidarity of millions of people in our countries and serves as evidence of the major trust placed in the work of the organization. We therefore wish to thank all those involved for their work.

The 34 National Committees contributed USD 1.44 billion, while 78 Field Offices raised USD 196 million, which represents around 14 percent of the overall result. We welcome the expansion of fundraising activities to include Field Offices. Our delegations expect that the activities of the Field Offices will become increasingly important in the future, since the transition of countries from MICs to HICs makes it possible to increase fundraising activities in those countries. We therefore ask PFP to indicate the different channels – National Committees and Field Offices – in the Financial Report in Table 1 and to present these two channels separately in future financial reports.

Regarding the investment funds expenses, PFP shows how important it is to carry out investment in markets with high potential. The USD 80 million approved by the Board for this purpose allow us above all to support and increase income from Regular Resources, as was achieved so impressively in 2017. We congratulate PFP and are pleased that the implemented marketing and communication measures led to such a good result. In the 2015 and 2016 financial reports, we enquired about the Allocation Strategy and requested that the distribution of the investment funds takes into account and presents the Field Offices and National Committees. The current report does not fulfil that request. PFP does provide information on the number of countries, the number of programmes and some of the activities. However, a breakdown of National Committees/Field Offices with structured and non-structured fundraising activities, or a breakdown of activities such as pledges, legacies etc. has not been included. The Investment Programme spends USD 83 million on targeted
fundraising activities in markets with the largest potential. It is a major contribution that requires reporting to provide the Board with a clear picture of the correct nature and effectiveness of the investment in the individual markets.

Finally, the report also describes the important work with corporations, major donors and foundations, as well as the non-financial sectors of PFP. We warmly welcome that work, especially the stronger emphasis on innovation, but we ask PFP not only to report on names and the numbers of corporations and foundations, but also on the effectiveness of the programmes that can be achieved thanks to such cooperation. The report could and should also provide information on UNICEF’s strategy for scaling up these good results and on UNICEF collaboration with the other UN agencies in sharing its cumulated knowledge and experience in non-financial partnerships.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the PF results, explicitly the PFP Director, the PFP staff, the Field Offices and the National Committees.