Statement by

H. E. Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie Amde,

Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations,

Second Regular Session of Executive Board of UNICEF,

September, 12/2018
Mr. President,

Madam Executive Director,

As this is my first time speaking at the UNICEF Executive Board meeting, allow me, Mr. President, to join others in expressing my profound appreciation to you for your continued effective leadership. I have been briefed how you have continued to lead the work of the Board in an effective and efficient manner.

Let me also thank the Executive Director for recognizing the contribution of my predecessor, Ambassador Tekeda Alemu. Let me assure you of my strong commitment and readiness to work closely with all of you to continue the work my predecessor, has been doing. I count on your support and advice.

I would also like to appreciate the Executive Director of UNICEF for her comprehensive statement and continued effective leadership. I also thank the entire staff of UNICEF, including those that work in difficult conditions, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children. I would also like to thank the other bureau members who have departed recently; and Deputy Executive Director Fatouma Ndiaye and Shahida Afzar, Deputy Executive Director of Partnership for their dedicated service to UNICEF.
Mr. President,

After three years, there has been some progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, progress remains insufficient; and we must accelerate the pace of implementation to ensure the full and timely execution of the SDGs. Hence, it is obvious that we need new and innovative initiatives to deliver the promise of the Agenda by 2030. In this regard, we appreciate the multifaceted activities of UNICEF undertaken in support of national efforts to implement SDGs related to children.

It is very encouraging that UNICEF is always in search of new ways to further enhance its effectiveness and efficiency. In this connection, we congratulate UNICEF for making 2017 a record-breaking year for resource mobilization. We also thank all its resource partners- public and private- for their continued financial support which enables UNICEF to deliver results for children. As the Strategic Plan of UNICEF, 2018 to 2021, requires $ 22.8 billion, it is vital to maintain and consolidate its partnership activities through structured dialogue on financing the results of UNICEF. It is also imperative to further broaden and diversify the donor base of UNICEF. In this regard, we underscore that boosting flexible and multi-year funding would be critical to meet the needs of
children, particularly those in vulnerable situations, in line with national plans and priorities.

While sufficient and predictable funding is indispensable, new ways of delivery that are effective and efficient are also important. In this regard, we welcome the first session of UNICEF on innovation. As the Executive Director rightly stated, innovative and creative thinking have always been part of UNICEF’s story. We appreciate UNICEF for promoting innovative approaches in partnership with various development actors. As we need to accelerate the implementation of SDGs, we encourage the use of innovation in delivering results for children in collaboration with national and local stakeholders.

Mr. President,

We also welcome that, as the Executive Director mentioned in her statement, UNICEF has “fully embraced” the reform process of the UN development system. As one of the most important and result-oriented multilateral development institutions, the full engagement of UNICEF is indeed critical for the success of the reform process which we believe should be implemented according to national development strategies. Let me conclude by reiterating that we highly value our productive partnership with UNICEF which continues to support us in addressing the challenges children continue to face.
The recent bilateral meeting between H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and our Executive Director, Mr. Henrietta H. Fore, has been an excellent opportunity to further strengthen our partnership and take it to a higher level. Let me take also seize this opportunity to reiterate our political commitment and readiness to continue to closely work with you as we all recommit to accelerate the implementation of SDGs with the mission of leaving no child behind.

I thank you.