UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD, First regular session 5-8 February 2013

Agenda Item 9 discussions on Unicef’s global thematic evaluations

Mr President and distinguished members of the Board,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Israel, New Zealand, United States and my own country Sweden.

We welcome the thematic evaluations which provide timely and relevant contributions to the preparations of the MTSP.

We also welcome the management responses to the three evaluations which, in large, shows commitment to take measures in accordance with findings and recommendations. We propose that the management responses of these evaluations be followed up by the Executive Board during 2014.

In particular, we welcome the overall development of a results based management system within the framework of the MTSP, within which measurable goals/objectives and indicators are to be elaborated with the purpose to improve the measuring of impact and results with regards to vulnerable groups of children and women.

The evaluations show that a lack of disaggregated data impacts negatively on the quality of RBM. We suggest that UNICEF encourage its national counterparts to develop disaggregated data/statistics for enhanced effectiveness and quality of results.

UNICEF is clearly the most advanced UN agency in applying a HRBA. It is therefore important that UNICEF takes the new MTSP as an opportunity to harmonize the results based management with the human rights based approach including gender equality to make sure that all progress can be identified in relation to these areas. UNICEF’s strategic plan could serve as a concrete example for other UN development agencies on how this can be done in practice.
We appreciate the expressed commitment by UNICEF to continue and work further on its internal and external communication to explain the conceptual and programmatic linkages between human rights and equity.

With regards to the findings of the evaluations, we would like to draw the attention to the conclusion that UNICEF needs to adapt its programs to specific contexts in order to assure that the most vulnerable groups are reached even in difficult contexts and humanitarian situations. In addition, for more effective implementation, UNICEF should improve the systematic integration of gender equality in its programming as well as the implementation and follow-up of activities. Findings from the evaluations also show that UNICEF need to assure meaningful participation of beneficiaries in all parts of the program cycle (programming/planning; implementation/follow-up). We support this conclusion.

The findings of the evaluations should be used actively in order to improve planning, programming and resource allocation – with the aim to improve and enhance the outreach to the most vulnerable groups of children and women – also in difficult contexts and humanitarian situations. Therefore, it is important that UNICEF management assures that these evaluations and planned follow-ups are well known within the entire organization. For effective realization, such follow-ups also need to be allocated relevant and sufficient resources within the institutional and/or programme budgets.

Looking ahead, we are of the opinion that the planning for up-coming global evaluations should take its point of departure in the priorities of the MTSP.

Thank for your attention.