Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake, for giving a comprehensive statement about UNICEF activities. UNICEF activity to tackle global issues through supporting vulnerable children and women is getting more important and is in line with Japanese foreign policy. Japan would like to continue to cooperate with UNICEF for our main foreign policies such as “Human Security”, “Womenomics”, “Disaster Risk Reduction” and “Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

Mr. President,

One of the most important Japanese foreign policies is “Human Security”, which holds that a people-centered approach is necessary for national, regional and global stability. In this connection, the UNICEF principle of “Equity” to support most vulnerable children and women is highly valued.

Japan is strongly committed to “Womenomics” toward a society where women shine, which is empowering women, strengthening health services for women, and promoting women’s economic participation and empowerment. Japan strongly supports UNICEF activity such as Girl’s Education and Gender Equality.

Japan has experienced various natural disasters including the Great East Japan Earthquake. Based on the lessons gained from these past disasters, to date Japan has been positively involved in disaster risk reduction efforts within international community. Japan will host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in
Sendai next March. As in the statement of Executive Director, we understand that UNICEF is making every effort to respond quickly and effectively to safeguard and improve children’s lives. Therefore we strongly wish to have Executive Director in this conference and its side event focusing on children to make it successful.

These are the issues of priority for both Japan and UNICEF. Therefore Japan would like to further deepen discussion and cooperation in these fields toward formulation of the post-2015 development agenda for a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient world.

Mr. President,

I would like to address a major topic of this session, which is “Critical Mass”. Japan increased 30% of core resources in 2013 compared to 2012 and has maintained the same level of core resources in 2014, fully appreciating the importance of core resources. At the same time, Japan contributed two hundred and forty million (240M) USD to non-core contribution. Before deciding non-core contribution, Japan refers to country program and humanitarian flash appeal by UNICEF and discusses fully with the relevant country and its UNICEF country office in order to align with the strategic plan. As a result, 60% of our non-core contribution goes to African countries as same as overall UNICEF expense. In addition, 70 % of UNICEF budget is from non-core contribution and it should be fully valued as well as core contribution.

I wish to conclude my statement by saying that we expect UNICEF to continue pursuing its work focusing on its mandate in an efficient, effective and transparent manner. We look forward to the results delivered through such efforts.

Thank you.