Thank you Mr. President,

Thailand wishes to express our appreciation to UNICEF for its comprehensive background document on Financing the UNICEF Strategic Plan. The document provides us with a sound financial plan to ensure that UNICEF can produce results under its new Strategic Plan, particularly to be able to respond swiftly to the rising number of emergency situations across the world.

Thailand supports all three proposed guiding principles for financing results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan. We agree that since UNICEF's operations rely wholly on voluntary contributions, there is a need to improve predictability and flexibility of funding, particularly from its core resources to ensure that children are assisted in all situations, including in emergency situations that often arise.

Mr. President,

As an organisation with strong brand and image, UNICEF is in excellent position to partner with the private sector. As such, Thailand supports UNICEF's proposal in its engagement with various stakeholders to enlarge its donor base. In our case, thanks to UNICEF-Thailand Fundraising Consultative Committee, fundraising from the private sector is highly successful in Thailand. In 2013, the private sector in Thailand contributed 16.5 million USD to UNICEF. Over 72 % of this contribution was from individual regular monthly givers. This shows that through UNICEF communication and advocacy strategy, private sector in emerging donor countries can provide potential financial opportunities as suggested in the background document.

Mr. President,

Although, Thailand sees the merit in maintaining the minimum level of flexible resources, nevertheless, Thailand believes that it is still necessary to allow options for donors both from public and private sectors to choose which UNICEF programme that wish to contribute- be it country, regional or global UNICEF programmes. This is particularly valid for a Middle Income Country such as Thailand. On one hand there is a growing donor base, particularly from the private sector as I already mentioned. But on the other hand, there remains a large number of needy children within the country, whom can greatly benefit from UNICEF's development and humanitarian activities. And such programmes are those that the Thai public believes that they are contributing to and where they want their money to be used.

Lastly, let me assure you that Thailand supports the overall direction of the shift towards a more flexible funding and strengthening the critical mass of core resources. We only call for continued opportunities for donors to choose the level or type of programme they wish their donations to be allocated to.

Thank you.

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