Executive Board of UNICEF, Second Regular Session, 8-12 September 2014, New York
Joint Statement on Item 4: UNICEF - Implementation of the QCPR - Funding issues

Thank you Chair.

I have the pleasure of delivering this statement on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the UK, the US, and my own country Canada.

Our countries welcome the consultative process and the ongoing discussion with the Board on funding and on the concept of critical mass. We consider adequate and high quality funding of UN agencies as critical for the sustainability of long term development efforts. In this regard, we see the elaboration of the integrated results and resources framework and the new cost recovery methodology, which were adopted last year, as important steps in this direction.

Likewise, we appreciate the joint efforts of the New York-based agencies to identify a number of basic principles in order to define critical mass of resources and to elaborate strategies for sustainable funding of UN development agendas. We appreciate the attempt to refine the concept of critical mass of resources across agencies, based on a common understanding of this concept, but also taking into account the uniqueness of each agency and the need to demonstrate performance and results as part of their resource mobilization efforts. We would like to highlight the importance of identifying the best mix of core and high quality non-core resources needed to fund the results of the Strategic Plan. We support the discussion of these funding questions taking place in the broader context of new funding resources, particularly the increasing support from the private sector and philanthropic foundations, as was highlighted by Mr. Kjorven in his presentation just now.

With respect to UNICEF, we appreciate the efforts to develop a paper on this complex subject. We believe that such a written document is important as a starting point, and as a reference for future discussions on funding of the Strategic Plan, including a review of cost recovery. The proposals presented in the Conference Room Paper that is being considered by the Board reflect efforts to translate the QCPR’s call for enhancing overall funding and improving the predictability and quality of resources into concrete actions.

We appreciate the efforts to operationalize the concept of critical mass in the specific context of UNICEF, in full alignment with the Integrated Resources and Results Framework. We would like to encourage UNICEF to continue to refine its conceptualization of Critical Mass, noting that we expect that it will evolve over time, together with funding trends. We fully expect that the structured dialogues will address such an evolution of concepts and estimates over the course of implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Like Switzerland, we therefore expect the structured dialogues to continue beyond 2014. We would suggest annual discussions, potentially as a standing agenda item of the Boards, and possibly at the same time as the annual reviews of the financial situation. We believe that an ongoing discussion would better prepare UNICEF for the mid-term review of the Integrated Budget, including on the implementation of the cost recovery methodology.

We also encourage UNICEF to continue its discussions with the other UN agencies on good practices for improved and better quality funding, whether it is core or non-core. We stand ready to continue the dialogue on this important issue. Thank you.