Item 7: Private fundraising: financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2013

President,

I will deliver this statement on behalf of Denmark, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and my own country Norway.

Before I address this agenda item, I would like to recognize the previous presentation by UNICEF, and on behalf of the before mentioned countries, I would like to take note of the financial estimates of UNICEF for the coming years. We recognize that UNICEF is being put under pressure financially because of the many humanitarian crises. We note that the deficit is increasing but we appreciate that UNICEF presents this budget to the board and keeps us informed.

We would like to thank UNICEF for the presentation, and for the information about the private fundraising as described in the financial report and statement for the year ending December 31, 2013.

On this occasion, we would also like to welcome the new head of PFP Gerard Bocquenet.

We would like to congratulate the National Committees and UNICEF with a remarkable result in mobilising private resources in 2013. The record amount of 1.26 billion USD is indeed very impressive!

Private fundraising constitutes a very important part of UNICEF’s revenue, and it is important that the Board is given sufficient information regarding these activities. We are encouraged to see the reporting is being improved, as the importance of transparency in this area should never be ignored.

We commend the National Committees and UNICEF for using new and innovative ways of mobilising funds from private sources, such as pledging through SMS. We encourage you to continue these efforts.

Private revenue now make up a very substantial part of UNICEF’s regular resources. We would like to encourage UNICEF and the National Committees to explore how the National Committees can continue to contribute to raise funds for other flexible resources, such as thematic funding. This would be in addition to, and not instead of regular resources. Thematic funding is, as was highlighted in presentations yesterday, softly earmarked funding to UNICEF’s strategic priorities, giving UNICEF better flexibility.
Finally, the National Committees deserve recognition and appreciation for their ability to mobilize such a valuable contribution to the important work for children. Their outreach activities and communication with the public constitutes a supportive environment that is unique - for development co-operation in general and for UNICEF in particular. We indeed hope these achievements will be maintained.

Thank you.