Thank you, Madame President.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to UNICEF’s Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake, for delivering a comprehensive statement on UNICEF’s activities.

Today I would like to touch upon two important issues. The first is “Structured Dialogue on Financing,” which is the main agenda of this executive board and the second is the 2030 Agenda which will be adopted at the upcoming Sustainable Development Summit.

<Structured Dialogue on Financing>

It is important that I express appreciation to UNICEF for preparing a document on “Structured Dialogue on Financing,” which analyses its current financial situation and outlines a new approach for mobilizing its resources.

Japan is concerned that core funding, as illustrated in the document, has decreased from nearly 50% in 2000 to 26% in 2014. In order to appropriately achieve the seven outcome areas and the two cross-cutting areas in the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017, it is crucial that we secure both core and thematic funding which are flexible.
Japan is pleased to see that the number of governments contributing to UNICEF has increased from 129 in 2013 to 135 in 2014, though the fact remains that three quarters of UNICEF’s funding still comes from the top 20 partners, which creates an unstable situation.

As described in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, we should involve more partners by every possible means, including through the mobilization of south-south cooperation and the private sector to support children, who will someday become the world’s leaders. Japan congratulates several innovative approaches under the initiative of UNICEF, such as the “Shared Agenda” with the EU for the protection of children’s rights as well as the “Power of Nutrition” initiative—a form of catalytic financing for new private and public financing for nutrition.

Madame President,

<Japanese Contribution>

Japan has already disbursed 18 million US dollars to UNICEF’s core resources, in addition to 130 million US dollars to its non-core resources.

However, as UNICEF has already pointed out in its analysis, a substantial increase in humanitarian emergencies in 2014 has left UNICEF’s appeals only half funded. In fact some of these crises are only 20% funded. Nevertheless, Japan has contributed substantially to these underfunded emergencies, particularly in Iraq, Sudan and Yemen.

In addition to the contribution from the Government of Japan, the Japan Committee for UNICEF contributed 120 million US dollars in 2014, 100 million of which went directly to core resources. This reflects the high opinion and expectations that Japan has of UNICEF. Both the Government and the people of Japan are deeply committed to close cooperation with UNICEF and will continue to support its activities both substantively and financially.
Japan expects UNICEF to establish a more concrete resource mobilization strategy in consultation with Member States, as well as various other kinds of partners and steadily implement this strategy under the strong and able leadership of the Executive Director.

Madame President,

<2030 Agenda>
In the year 2030, children of today will have become the leaders of our society. But for now they are still vulnerable and need to be nurtured with particular care. We must focus on them and think seriously about how to protect and empower them based on the notion of “Human Security.” Japan reiterates, as mentioned in the 2030 Agenda, that the international community’s new agendas should be people and children-centered.

In order to implement the Agenda, the availability of reliable disaggregated data is crucial to grasping the situation on the ground, strengthening country programmes and effectively mobilizing resources so that no children are left behind. In this regard, the Data for Children Forum, to be held on Friday, is timely.

One of the main features of the 2030 Agenda is to break away from the “silo-approach” in order to integrate three dimensions of sustainable development. But we still face the long-lasting issue of fragmentation of U.N. development entities. The time is right to seriously consider reform of the UNDS. I hope that debate among Member States and U.N. development entities will soon start.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Japan will continue to be positively involved in discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a member of the Friends of Children and is pleased to continue working in collaboration with UNICEF and other Member States.

I thank you, Madame President.