Madam President,

Please allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to you and members of the Bureau, as well as the Secretariat for the excellent work in preparing and convening this meeting.

I would also like to commend the Executive Director of UNICEF for his comprehensive remarks, and especially for his resolute dedication to the work of the Organization this important year.

Madam President,

This year we are set to complete the MDGs, and we are ready to kick-off a new set of targets for the next 15 years at the end of this month. Clearly, children have to be a part of sustainable development. Hence, it is only natural for us to merge the post-2015 efforts with the aims of the world fit for children.

Even though the new development agenda does not mention children in a stand-alone goal, the document makes specific references to providing health care for mothers and children; access to quality education; as well as social and economic protection for children. Indeed, increasing the quality of life and well-being of children have become the development priorities for many countries, including Indonesia.

We believe that UNICEF will play the role as key agency in ensuring and promoting the quality of life and well-being of children within this post-2015 development framework.

Madam President,

The halfway point in the implementation process of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017 witness progress in many areas of partnership between the Government of Indonesia and UNICEF. There are, however, room for improvement. We need to redouble our efforts to realize the rights of all children.

It is important to ensure that the process to realize the Strategic Plan is in harmony with the development priorities and suits the needs of individual countries. We believe that in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, stakeholders should identify and respond to challenges while take fully into account the local contexts; conduct dialogues and positive engagements with the people.

Distinguished delegates,
On 5 September this year, Indonesia celebrated the 25th anniversary of its ratification to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. During 25 years of the implementation, and 15 years since the adoption on the MDGs, significant progress has been made, yet many challenges remain.

Our commitment to fulfill the obligations under CRC has always been in synergy with the implementation of MDGs at the national level. Along with this commitment, this year Indonesia is ready to commit to a new set of goals and target related to children, within the context of Sustainable Development Goals.

This year Indonesia has developed a National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015 – 2019 that includes national priorities, unfinished MDG targets and the principles of the Sustainable Development Agenda. For Indonesia, children and youth are part of the core design of our medium and long-term development plan.

The Medium-Term Development Plan lays the roadmap for Indonesia in reducing the maternal mortality rate; reducing stunting, wasting, anaemia, underweight and child mortality below age of 5 years old; halting communicable and non-communicable diseases; eradicating malnutrition; providing universal access to safe and clean water; improving equity and the quality of education; promoting gender equality; as well as protecting children against violence and discrimination.

To achieve goals in health, Indonesia has introduced the universal health care program with the aim that by 2019, every Indonesians, including children, will be covered by this program as an effort to improve health and the quality of life. This program will include increasing the quality of health care for maternal, neonatal and child as well as pregnancy support.

In education, we are committed to allocate around 20 per cent of our total annual budget, scale up compulsory education to 12 years, and provide vocational training for youth.

We place much confidence that the efforts on health and education, in conjunction with other components of the Medium-Term Development Plan, will enhance the participation of children and youth in national development.

Madam President,

Over the years Indonesia has been active in the partnership and cooperation with UNICEF to advance the efforts on the protection of children. Indonesia stands ready to offer its continued support for the work of UNICEF.

Thank you.