Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,
I am pleased to present the Country Programmes for Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Malaysia. As you are likely aware, 95% of the over 2 billion people in East Asia and Pacific already live in a middle income or upper middle income country. In addition, nearly all countries of the region have achieved most of the MDGs. However, while the region is experiencing persistent growth and rapid social change, inequities are also growing. Rising inequities in access to economic opportunities and access to basic social services, as well as civil strife, have also accelerated internal and external migration. Youth unemployment averages 30% among the 15 to 24 year olds and the region is the most prone to natural hazards globally.

The New Country Programme Documents
Inclusion and disparity reduction are at the core of the four CPDs before you today. Progress will be achieved mainly through support to evidence generation and use, advocacy, capacity development of government and civil society institutions, enhanced engagement of communities and civil society and strategic alliances with a wide variety of partners. UNICEF's support will help partners identify, analyse, and remove bottlenecks to accelerate positive change and the realization of the rights of all children.

All four Programmes have been developed in close collaboration with our UN Partners and governments to ensure strong coherence with national development plans, including their linkage to the new SDGs, through the respective UN Development assistance or partnership frameworks.

Cambodia
In Cambodia, following the genocide, extreme violence and political instability of the Khmer Rouge period, the country's rate of integration and progress has accelerated with significant results in poverty reduction, child survival and education. However, GDP growth only marginally impacted the majority rural population, and diarrhea, stunting, and broad access to basic services remain problematic.

The new country programme focuses on increasing coverage of basic social services such as birth registration, water and sanitation and on building resilience of rural and indigenous populations, including through bilingual and intercultural approaches and the strengthening of government institutions and systems. The Executive Board is asked to approve the programme with an aggregate ceiling of regular and other resources in a total amount of $65.3 million as presented in document E/ICEF/2015/P/L.21

China
In The People’s Republic of China, rapid economic growth has lifted over 500 million Chinese out of poverty – an achievement without historic precedent. China has maintained universal access to primary education and further reduced child mortality. Such spectacular growth and very rapid urbanization have also presented new challenges such as rising inequality, the need for inclusive growth and environmental sustainability. UNICEF will continue to work from “pilot to policy to scale” to help national and local authorities ensure that high impact interventions address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children.

The new Country Programme builds on the success of the past and positions UNICEF to work with national and sub-national government as well as with a growing number of partners on emerging
opportunities, particularly in the areas of Social Policy, Child Protection, Child Welfare, Early Childhood Development, and Adolescence. China’s success and potential to contribute to child-related outcomes in Asia and globally will be leveraged through South South and horizontal Cooperation. The Executive Board is asked to approve the programme with a aggregate ceiling of regular and other resources in a total amount of $136.5 million, including those raised in country, as presented in document E/ICEF/2015/P/L.22

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia
In Indonesia, the government has renewed its commitment to universal access and inclusion and progress as evidenced by the significant increase in public sector budget allocations to education and health. Progress in primary education enrolment and child mortality reduction have been very significant but work remains to reach all children and to address malnutrition, maternal mortality and access to and use of improved sanitation.

The new Country Programme takes advantage of the strong national commitment to child rights and the highly decentralised structures to contribute to addressing inequities, especially among the rural and urban poor. The programme will build on previous progress, strong local partnerships and rapid changing technologies to engage more meaningfully with children, adolescents and the community to address complex social issues such as child marriage and the emerging issue of childhood obesity. The new programme makes disaster risk reduction a programmatic pillar, given the numbers and frequency of natural hazards and the vulnerabilities of Indonesian children. UNICEF’s convening power will be used to engage partners in support of a national Agenda for Children. The Executive Board is asked to approve the programme with a aggregate ceiling of regular and other resources in a total amount of $146.3 million, including those raised in country, as presented in document E/ICEF/2015/P/L.23

Malaysia
Distinguished Delegates,

Malaysia has virtually eliminated poverty, achieved the MDGs and plans to become a high income country by 2020. As in many middle income countries, Malaysia still has challenges in the areas of child protection, inclusion and disparity reduction.

The new Country Programme is designed with all partners to help the country successfully meet that goal and simultaneously address the challenge of reaching all children living in Malaysia. As discussed with Board members during their recent field visit to Malaysia, the Programme will also contribute to ensuring that universality is accompanied by commitment to international standards of quality social services and systems. It particularly targets coverage and quality of services for migrant, undocumented and stateless children in the eastern provinces. At the same time, the programme will continue to innovate and engage the private and corporate sector to leverage their actions and support for the fulfilment of the rights of children in Malaysia and elsewhere. The Executive Board is asked to approve the programme with a aggregate ceiling of regular and other resources in a total amount of $ 39 million, including those raised in country, as presented in document E/ICEF/2015/P/L.24

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, this very briefly outlines the country Programmes before you as submitted earlier this year. All comments received by board members have been addressed and were discussed with both concerned members as well as the programme countries. I look forward to any comments and questions from the Board.
Thank you.