Statement of Switzerland

Executive Board of UNICEF –
Second Regular Session 2015
Private Fundraising Partnership
Item 7

Mr. President,

On behalf of Germany, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and my country Switzerland I would like to thank Gerard Boquenet for his interesting oral presentation and for the Financial Report and Statement for the Year ended 31 December 2014.

We are very pleased to learn that the 2014 financial year ended on a more positive footing than was budgeted for, in spite of the significant challenges posed by the negative impact of the exchange rate on the final figures. We feel that a result that is 14 percent higher than the budgeted figure is to be regarded as an excellent achievement, and we thank everyone who has contributed to this outcome.

The Annual Report also points to the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to generate the required funds for regular resources. As can be inferred from the report, the negative consequences of the exchange rate also have a considerable impact on the efforts of fundraisers in their own markets. The combination of the decline in regular resources from the private sector and from governments is a cause for concern. A turnaround in the situation with regard to national budgets for ODAs does not look likely in the short term, neither can a positive change in the RR contribution realistically be expected. We ask that this state of affairs be taken into consideration in the context of the Mid Term Review 2016 and for the purposes of developing the new strategy, and that realistic options be presented to the Board in terms of how UNICEF intends to tackle this challenges.

We welcomes the expansion of fundraising activities to Country Offices. It is in the nature of things that investments need to be made in the initial phase. However, the report does not give any indication of the results which these measures are intended to bring about. We would ask that the PFP Director provide transparent
reporting in future financial reports with regard to the income and total expenditure of fundraising measures in Country Offices.

As stated in paragraph 1 of the report, the National Committees are key stakeholders that not only support the work of UNICEF by providing the organization with funds and being instrumental in the generation of regular resources, they also play an important advocacy and educational role in their own countries when it comes to children’s rights. They form an important bridge between UNICEF and the corporate sector as well as civil society. Our delegation regards the National Committees model as a very successful business model.

Thanks to the National Committees, UNICEF is able to achieve a global presence and to ensure that the rights of children all over the world are safeguarded, and that action is taken to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged children. The refugee crisis in the Mediterranean is once again bringing home to us the fact that children in every country of the world need protection.

This global presence also makes it possible for the organization to contribute – on a worldwide basis – to the Sustainable Development Goals, which are to be determined within the coming days. UNICEF is ideally placed to promote relevant programmes to bring about progress for the benefit of children, and to report on the progress made. Our delegation would be interested to hear what role the National Committees are to play in this regard.

In last February session as well as today, the Board is addressing the issue of changes in the development landscape and the implications for UNICEF funding. We consider it important that UNICEF take into account the experience and knowledge gained from and in connection with the work of the National Committees and calls on UNICEF to engage them as well as other key private sector donors in informal dialogues for the strategic dialogue on financing and the coming discussions midterm review of the strategic plan.

We wish to thank the PFP Director for his important work and ask that he also convey our gratitude to all those involved.