Thank you Madam President, I would like to start by thanking UNICEF for the presentation on Structured Dialogue on financing the results of the Strategic Plan as well as for the background paper provided for this session.

Economic uncertainties around the world are making choices difficult for many and have had a negative impact on the possibilities to secure and predict support to our common causes. We therefore need to continue discussing how we can make funding more secure and predictable. And how we increase core funding and reach out to more contributors.

The funding has to be predictable and flexible enough for the organisations to have a fair chance to efficiently plan its work and allocate its resources in a way that enables full implementation of all areas of the strategic plan. Core support and flexible non-core funding are indispensable in this regard.

Sweden commends UNICEF for having increased its overall funding in 2014, and notes with satisfaction that 2014 saw an increase in regular resources. However, there are still concerns as core support has continued to decline as a percentage of UNICEF’s total revenues since the start of the new millennium. We also find it worrying that funding to the thematic funding pools, which allow for more flexibility and alignment to the Strategic Plan priorities, has declined during the course of 2014. In fact, thematic funding as a proportion of total earmarked funding was only 9 per cent during 2014.

Sweden would welcome UNICEF to inform its partners of the consequences this development has and believes that the structured financial dialogues may provide an excellent opportunity for such an exchange of views. The structured financial dialogues should ideally help broaden the donor base and increase the core resources as well as making the non-core funding more flexible and predictable, in alignment with the strategic plan.
The ultimate goal is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the work of UNICEF, making it fully fit for purpose to deliver on the commitment for children. Critical to achieving this is making funding streams and budget allocations more transparent and financial gaps more visible.

We should also remain committed to aid effectiveness. **Tying resources to selected projects at the country level** makes it difficult for host countries to keep an overview and for them to lead development in their country. **Availability of funds then easily becomes a driver of development priorities.**

We, the Member States and others, should use the opportunity to adjust, optimise and redefine financial commitments and priorities by examining and taking into account the actual financial situation of Unicef. If we know there are gaps in one area and over-funding in another - we may want to be given the opportunity to reconsider.

Future dialogues should therefore be **inclusive, transparent and driven by our participation, with the assistance of UNICEF and the secretariat of the Executive Board.**

*It is not an exercise for the few.*

We would welcome the Executive Board, its secretariat and its bureau, to assist further in giving input and guidance to board members well in advance and as well as arranging informal sessions on this matter.

We welcome the **background paper** provided by UNICEF for this session and believe it contains several important suggestions. In this regards we would particularly like to commend UNICEF for the development of the **Transparency Portal** as it provides for more openness on programs, results and finances. We also share the idea that broadening the donor base and building new strategic partnerships to mobilize additional resources for children is of the utmost importance. We thus look forward with great interest to the planned development of ten succinct ‘**Cases for Support’**, which aims to advocate for more Regular Resources. Such an approach, aligning with the Strategic Plan result areas, sounds very promising.
Madam President,

Once again, allow me to thank UNICEF for the preparations made this far. We are sure we will work together on developing the financial dialogues in the coming years and look forward to continuing this discussion as a standing item on the Executive Board’s agenda.

Thank you