Mr. / Madame President,

• Thank you for giving me the floor.

• UNICEF is, will be and has been for a long time, an important strategic partner that helps to attain the Netherlands’ goals in supporting and protecting children.

• The world is in peril at the moment. UNICEF plays an important role in reaching the children most in need. We support the view of the Executive Director that we cannot live up to the New Development Agenda if we do not protect children from the inhumane environments that adults have created. Due to the recognized value of the organization, the Netherlands strongly supports UNICEF’s work in humanitarian settings.

Mr/Madame President,

• This is the first year that this executive board follows-up on the request expressed in the QCPR of 2012 to organize structured dialogues on how to finance the development results agreed in the strategic planning cycle of 2014/2017, with a view to making non-core resources more predictable and less restricted/earmarked, broadening the donor base and improving the adequacy and predictability of resource flows.

• This discussion is of vital importance to us, as we need to show that the lives of women and men and girls and boys have improved as a result of the full implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 that we have endorsed and for which we have provided funding.

• It is also important in view of the changing development landscape and decreasing and changing funding. An analysis of the resource mobilization function of the United Nations system by the Joint Inspection Unit in 2014 provides useful recommendations, addressing both the legislative bodies of the United Nations system organizations as well as the executive heads of organizations.

Mr/Madame President,

• Please allow me to make some comments on the process as well as on the content of the structured dialogues including on the “why”, the “who” and the “how” of this process.
• On the “why”, we would like to thank UNICEF for the extensive information provided under the agenda items five and eight. It offers a valuable overview of the strategic forward thinking towards longer term achievement of outcomes in the future, also linked to the SDG agenda. As mentioned in the Strategic Brief, we believe that shifting from transactional donor relationships to multi-stakeholder governance is important to create more strategic partnerships and achieve tangible results.

• As part of the “why”, we would be interested to hear more about funding gaps and in what areas they exist. This, including projections for the future, will give us some concrete input on where the challenges exist and what the prognosis is for the future.

• We view cooperation among the funds and programs as vital as many of the issues related to financing the strategic priorities are system-wide by nature and we commend UNICEF in the work they have done so far. Furthermore we are interested to hear your views on how the Finance for Development outcome document and the SDGs will affect the discussion. We would also be interested to hear what the appropriate venue will be for that discussion, possibly the 2016 QCPR discussions.

• On the “how”, we have the impression that the different UN agencies do not have the same understanding of the concept of structured funding/financing dialogues. We are pleased to note that we some concrete steps towards clarification and harmonization have been made in the discussions in the course of the UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF boards.

• This clarification will help organizations to provide the appropriate information and facilitate the Executive Board and donors in preparation for this discussion.

• On the “who” we would like to support that Member states, National committees and other donors take part in the dialogue.

• In conclusion, we believe there should be a common understanding between the different UN agencies on this issue so that the full implementation of the Strategic Plans is at the center of the discussion.

• As a way forward, we would like to request UNICEF to organize informal discussions linked to the Executive Board meeting (for instance on the margins of the executive board) in order to ensure a conducive discussion on this important issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.