Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of Bangladesh delegation, I congratulate you, Mr. President and other members of the Bureau, on your continued prudent and efficient stewardship of the Board. I also convey our deep appreciation to the Executive Director Dr. Anthony Lake for his insightful statement before the Board today. I appreciate the statement of the Chairperson of the IDA Mr. Yanis Clastanis in this Board meeting where he echoed for the development of the children with disabilities.

Mr. President,

The statement of the Executive Director now before us rightly points to the ongoing and emerging challenges for the achievement of UNICEF’s objectives. I appreciate this timely initiative for the children with disabilities and inclusive development plan of the UNICEF.

I like to recall that Bangladesh took the initiative for the General Assembly Resolution A/Res/67/82 for autism spectrum disorder in the United Nations and now globally autistic children are taken better care of. In Bangladesh Ministry of Health has taken up programme for the welfare and development of the autistic children. We would like to reaffirm our fullest support to the activities of UNICEF. We also would urge UNICEF to continue its focus on the children requiring special assistance in disabilities including the autistic children.

We recognize that we still have a long way to go to bring changes to the lives of the children. The very fact that still more than 3 million new-born and half million women continue to die annually from child-birth related causes asks for dedicated efforts on our part. To achieve the MDG 5, we have a daunting task ahead and many more about post 2015 sustainable development agenda.
Now about the MDG implementation, even in the face of multiple crises and challenges, Bangladesh, an LDC with a population of 160 million, has made noteworthy progress in the attainment of MDGs during 2000-2011. Bangladesh is poised to attain the MDG targets in reducing the incidence of poverty and poverty gap ratio; enhancing the coverage of minimum dietary energy consumption; net enrolment in primary education; gender parity in primary and secondary education; reducing child and infant mortality and improving immunization coverage; halting rolling back malaria, controlling tuberculosis and sustaining the low prevalence of HIV/AIDS; and improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

We note with satisfaction that a large number of countries including Bangladesh have achieved significant progress in net school enrolment and several stand a good chance of achieving universal primary education by 2015 (Goal 2). However, retention at the primary level and transition from primary to post-primary education remain key challenges in basic education. In the face of growing food insecurity, which is exacerbated by global economic downturn, we would reiterate our call to UNICEF to broaden its complementary feeding programmes for young children, inter alia, forging partnership with WFP’s school feeding programme.

**Mr. President,**

We are pleased that UNICEF through several consultation workshop processes prepared a good document for Medium-term Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 where it has envisaged the result for children at impact desired levels and expect outcomes and we understand outputs will be clustered around to strengthen provision of services, to meet increased demand, to create enabling environment and to meet humanitarian response. We welcome the UNICEF Integrated budget of 2014-17, which we expect will bring improved results focus and enhanced linkages with the strategic plan results and harmonized in methodology with cost classification and recovery with other agencies of the UN. But the challenges are also there about the private sector fund raising and raising of the UNICEF regular resources provision of the budget. We think the international community will not fail to fulfill the need of the UNICEF in this respect.
Mr. President,

As we know, discussions now under way to shape the post-2015 development agenda, which is expected to result in a new set of sustainable development goals, include significant attention to the health, education and protection needs of all children, girls and boys including the disabled; strengthened governance; increased attention to poverty equity, inclusion, the environment and resilience; and a reframing of responsibilities that calls on all countries, rich and poor alike, to address social inequalities, remove social and financial barriers top services, and meet obligations to realize all rights all children everywhere.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh is proud to be one of the major programming countries of UNICEF. Bangladesh’s partnership with UNICEF is growing day by day. We hope that the distinguished members of the Executive Board will give a more positive consideration to enable the partnership between the Bangladesh and UNICEF to grow further.

I thank you.