Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the executive director, Mr. Anthony Lake, for his informative and insightful remarks on UNICEF vision and activities. To this end, we support his emphasis on integrating equity into the design and implementation of UNICEF programs and services. We encourage UNICEF to continue to reach the most disadvantaged and marginalized children, particularly children with disabilities. As Mr. Lake mentioned this morning, more equitable societies tend to also be more economically stable ones. We share this sentiment with Mr. Lake, and we believe that mainstreaming equity into UNICEF’s work will prove to be more cost effective in the long run.

I also thank Ms. Geeta Rao Gupta and Mr. Jeffrey O’Malley for their informative presentation on the Strategic Plan for 2014-2017.

We appreciate the responsiveness of UNICEF to the recommendations of member states in the process of drafting the Strategic Plan. Let me make brief remarks in this regard on four areas.

First, we would like to recognize the effort of the UNICEF to incorporate the recommendations of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) into its Strategic Plan for the period of 2014-2017. We take note that the Strategic Plan is well drawn up in line with the QCPR guidelines. We hope that the QCPR principles will be translated into practice for UNICEF’s operation in the field. In particular, we stress that the principle of collaboration should remain as one of the priorities in all of UNICEF’s efforts.
Stakeholders in the UNICEF’s work encompass diverse actors ranging from member states to other UN funds and programs and related agencies; civil society; the private sector and international financial institutions. Therefore, it will be critical that UNICEF continue its effort toward enhanced cooperation and engagement with these multi-stakeholders.

Second, we welcome that UNICEF has further strengthened the system for evidence-based evaluation and results-based management. In particular, the Monitoring Results for Equity Systems will enable UNICEF to render dynamic and context-specific responses to complex and evolving situations. We believe that these tools will help UNICEF to improve its program efficiency and produce high-quality measurable outputs.

Third, my delegation supports UNICEF for its strategic focus for mainstreaming gender equality both within the organization and in the field. We note with satisfaction that UNICEF has been taking concerted measures to implement the United Nations Development Group’s programming principles through its work in gender mainstreaming.

Lastly, we would like to emphasize the importance of innovation—a point that Mr. Lake stressed during the 2013 Annual Session Executive Board Meeting. We believe that information and communication technologies can add value to field operations and organizational activities by increasing effectiveness and efficiency as well as transparency and accountability. We encourage UNICEF to continue to search for more opportunities to integrate such technologies into its work.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to inform that the Republic of Korea has recently provided around 6 million USD for the UNICEF’s humanitarian projects for North Korea. The Korean Government will sustain humanitarian aid to those vulnerable groups in North Korea, including infants and children, regardless of the political situation.

Korea is also actively collaborating with the UNICEF on various development projects to improve maternal health and education, particularly in the regions of the Asia Pacific and Africa. We will continue our effort to expand these cooperative projects.

Thank you. /End/