



**STATEMENT BY MS. REVA NAYYAR, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 3: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF 2005 ON JANUARY 17, 2005**

Mr. President,

We congratulate you on taking over as President and welcome the other members of the Bureau. We would like to appreciate the commendable work done by the outgoing Bureau under the dynamic leadership of its President. We also thank the Executive Director for the comprehensive and well presented report.

Mr. President,

We have taken note from the Executive Director's report that there has been a positive trend in regular resources levels in the past three years. We have also noted the concern expressed by the report over the decline in the proportion of regular resources to total resources. We agree with the Executive Director that UNICEF depends on these unrestricted resources for an effective global presence, to provide continuity in its work and to respond to new and emerging needs. We also note that core funds permit UNICEF to allocate programme resources to countries with the greatest needs, implement programmes to develop institutional capacities and provide adequate technical and administrative support to governments receiving resources directly through programmatic or general budgetary contributions and through global funds. We, therefore, recognize UNICEF's call for greater contributions towards core funds.

We do have a few questions based on various sections of the report. In several parts of the report, there are references to human rights based approach, or rights based approach. It is not our intention to contradict or deny the need for ensuring children's rights. To the contrary, we believe that overall development of a society, including sustained economic development best ensures the rights of children. We also believe that influencing decision making processes in countries is not primarily an activity mandated for the funds and programmes.

We notice from the section on the resident coordinator system that the low number of UNICEF RCs is a cause for concern. But it is also apparent that the low

number of UNICEF RCs is probably due to low level of interest among staff. We would appreciate some details from the Executive Director on why there is insufficient interest amongst UNICEF staff for the position of RCs and if there is insufficient interest within UNICEF, whether UNICEF plans to take in outsiders who could then be trained to take up RC's positions for UNICEF.

We have gone through the detailed section on CCA and UNDAF. We note that concerns remain that the process is too time consuming and that the quality of the process and product is impacted by the varying capacities of country teams. We have also noted that UNICEF is conscious of the need for improvement in terms of depth of analysis and focus of programme cooperation, and the need for more systematic identification of good examples, good practices and lessons learnt. While appreciating the Executive Director's intention to focus on this aspect as a priority task in 2005, we would also like to recall the important guidance provided on the issue of CCA and UNDAF by the TCPR resolution adopted by the 59<sup>th</sup> GA. The resolution makes two important points in this regard. Firstly, that the CCA and UNDAF processes are efforts to improve the support for national development priorities and policies, and secondly, that full governmental ownership, participation and leadership is required at all stages of those processes. These principles need to be borne in mind while undertaking future activities in this regard.

Under the section on gender mainstreaming, we note that in 2005, UNICEF will lead the development of new indicators for child protection, with a focus on measuring violence, including gender based violence and armed conflict, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination affecting children. We would like to emphasise that the development of indicators is an important and sensitive process and should be undertaken with full intergovernmental consultation and agreement. We presume that the development of these indicators would be discussed in the context of the forthcoming MTSP. We would like some details from the Executive Director in this regard.

We note from the section on follow up to international conferences that as part of the HLCP-led process UNICEF would be addressing the interrelationship between the three major themes of development and environment, peace and security and human rights and governance. We would like the Executive Director to provide us greater details on the HLCP-led process and UNICEF's role in this process. We would also like some details on how the three interrelationships mentioned above would be addressed and what exactly would be UNICEF's role in the process. We seek this information, because to our understanding none of these activities fall within the mandate of UNICEF.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we have taken note of the cautious optimism with which the Executive Director views the upturn in official development assistance (ODA) since adoption of the Monterrey consensus and the large contributions from private sources. We share UNICEF's sense of optimism as UNICEF deserves committed support to enable it to continue its useful activities.

Thank you, Mr. President

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