



STATEMENT BY MRS. REVA NAYYAR, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 10 : UNICEF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE STRATEGY AT THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2006 OF THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD 16-20 & 23 JANUARY 2006 ON JANUARY 17, 2006

Mr. President,

We thank the Executive Director for a comprehensive document outlining the UNICEF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy (WASH) 2006-2015. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy for 2006- 2015 provides a set of key results, targets, and indicators that will accelerate action for fulfilling children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation in the context of the emerging global challenges.

The Report states that the strategy would require UNICEF to work closely with other United Nations agencies on their respective roles and responsibilities as well as common operating procedures in support of national development policies and programmes that would lead to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We would request the Executive Director to provide some details of the kind of collaborations that would be required in the areas in which common operating procedures would need to be developed. We would also request the Executive Director to include feedback on this aspect in future reports on the implementation of the strategy.

The strategy proposes to move up from developing and implementing models at local level towards more strategic support to policy development, strategic planning, institutional development and capacity building. We support this aspect of the strategy, which is consistent with the Government of India's 10th Five Year Plan. The core strategy indicated in the document is already implemented in India's Current Child Programme. This approach is also implemented in our Total Sanitation Campaigns Projects.

The strategy aims to promote safe and sustainable water supplies through improved water resources management. We support the objective of supporting innovative measures such as rainwater harvesting and micro watershed management.

We note the increased emphasis on longer-term partnerships between UNICEF and partner countries, which will allow for more realistic and adaptive planning.

The strategy aims to focus on capacity development of UNICEF's own staff as well as of civil society organizations, local communities and other development stakeholders. We feel that capacity development would be an important element of the strategy and recommend that UNICEF pay particular emphasis to this aspect.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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