



**STATEMENT BY MRS. REVA NAYYAR, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT
OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 9 : UNICEF
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO RECENT CRISES AT THE FIRST
REGULAR SESSION 2006 OF THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD
16-20 & 23 JANUARY 2006 ON JANUARY 18, 2006**

Mr. President,

We thank the Executive Director for the presentation just made.

In the last 12 months, multiple natural disasters have struck India, starting from the devastating Tsunami in December 2004, to massive floods that affected several states in mid-2005, through the powerful earthquake in October 2005.

The Indian Ocean Tsunami has been one of the greatest humanitarian challenges. UNICEF immediately offered its support to the Government of India in the relief phase and has been supporting our rehabilitation process with the objective of "Building Back Better for Children" to effectively raise the quality of child-centred services to levels higher than they were before the disaster.

Following the earthquake in October 2005, the Indian authorities responded promptly with evacuation and treatment of the injured population, restoration of communications and supply of relief materials and food. UNICEF's assistance focused on assisting the Government in child protection and revitalizing institutions, especially the Anganwadi centres, primary health care facilities, primary schools and restoring access to water.

The Government of India appreciates UNICEF's proactive role in applying the logic of the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) to all humanitarian crises: to focus on those interventions proven to be essential for immediate survival and protection, and to ensure that children in the midst of natural disasters are protected and cared for.

Thank you, Mr. President.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS