BANGLADESH

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the
Second Regular Session 2016 of the Executive Board of UNICEF
New York, 14 September, 2016

1. Thank you Mr. President,
   I congratulate you, Mr. President for your efficient stewardship of the Executive Board of UNICEF. I also convey our deep appreciation to the Executive Director Dr. Anthony Lake for his insightful statement and outstanding leadership in steering the organization very successfully. His statement provides detailed overview of the ongoing and emerging challenges particularly vulnerabilities of the children and UNICEF's strategy to deal with them.

2. Mr. President,
   We recognize that to bring changes to the lives of the children and for protection of their rights still we have a long way to go. From now on, up to 2030 the SDGs are our guiding force on many issues affecting the conditions of our children. In the face of persisting inequalities and climate change related vulnerabilities the children are always at the risk of exclusion and marginalization. The status of the children in the crisis and conflict zones remains another serious source of concern. We commend the role of UNICEF and other UN Agencies for their relentless efforts to deal with these emergency needs and emerging challenges.

3. Mr. President,
   The fact that still more than 3 million new-born and half million women continue to die annually from child-birth related causes and millions are out of school, calls for dedicated efforts on all of our part. Although a large number of countries including Bangladesh have achieved significant progress in school enrolment, retention at the primary level, quality of education and transition from primary to post-primary education remain key challenges in basic education. We all know that, adequate nutrition is essential in early childhood to ensure healthy growth, proper organ formation and function, a strong immune system, and neurological and cognitive development. In the face of growing food insecurity, 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 to help improve nutrition and help reduce drop out rate.

4. Mr. President,
   UNICEF has actively engaged with other United Nations funds and programmes to discuss and identify a harmonized approach to respond to the QCPR mandates on the structured dialogue. In the report of the Structured dialogue on financing the results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 mentioned that UNICEF has raised more than $5 billion annually for the past two years. In 2015, UNICEF received total revenue of $5.01 billion, with 69 per cent of total revenue from the public sector, 29 per cent from the private sector and 2 per cent from other revenue. But it is observed that regular resources (RR/core or unrestricted resources) that are
critical to the ability of UNICEF to reach the most vulnerable children – declined at 23 per cent of total revenue in 2015, which is at its lowest in the organization’s history. Other resources (OR/non-core or earmarked revenue) totaled $3,836 million in 2015, or 77 per cent of overall funding. Due to the cross-cutting nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we urge UNICEF to grow RR and to complement it with flexible and predictable earmarked funding in order to deliver results for children.

5. **Mr. President,**

In the updated "Strategic Plan: Financial Estimates 2016-2019", it is mentioned that total revenue forecast to be $4.8 billion in 2016, a decline of 3 per cent from 2015. It is mentioned that the planned expenditures will reduce cash balances, but UNICEF will continue to meet a prudent liquidity requirement, still this indicates the gradual erosion of the resource accumulation of the organization. It is also mentioned that core resources revenue in 2015 was $1.17 billion, a decrease of 11 per cent as compared with 2014 ($1.33 billion). We urge the development partners to come forwarded to fill up the gap of the core resources which may hinder the UNICEF’s programme implementation in future.

6. **Mr. President,**

We welcome the revised Evaluation Policy which will govern the organization’s evaluation function and provides a comprehensive framework for all evaluation activities undertaken by UNICEF. We hope it will address not only the conduct of evaluations and the use of evaluation results, but also the development of the evaluation function and strengthen evaluation capacity among national partners. We emphasize for evaluation activities to be conducted at the regional and country levels where programme are implemented.

7. **Mr. President,**

As a development partner, we appreciate the implementation of the UNICEF programme in Bangladesh. Thousands of children leaving in slums and in other urban areas do not have access to the schooling, sanitation and proper hygiene. We urge UNICEF to scale up the programme and make a hard drive for reducing the inequality which prevails among the children. We all know that longer-term commitments will be required to sustain the gains that are already achieved. So we all together should face the challenges and scale up the equity programme of the UNICEF in Bangladesh as well as other part of the world.

I thank you, Mr. President.