

Intervention by Jamaica

Second Regular Session for 2006 of the UNICEF Executive Board

Latin American and Caribbean Presentation

6 September 2006

Madam Chair,

I wish to add my voice to previous speakers before me in support of the important work of UNICEF in the region and indeed in my own country, Jamaica.

The disparities that exist in the Latin American and Caribbean region in relation to meeting the MDGs are well documented. Even within our respective States and sectors the differences are remarkable. The Government of Jamaica values UNICEF as an important partner in the multi-sectoral, coordinated approach we have adopted in our national objectives, aimed at improving the situation of children - objectives which are consistent with the targets of the MDGs and *A World Fit for Children* outcomes.

The draft country programme for Jamaica for the period 2007-2011 is expected to focus resources on the critical areas of:

- Advocacy, public policy and partnerships
- Children and HIV/AIDS
- Child protection
- Quality education and early childhood development
- Sub-regional early childhood development
- Cross-sectoral costs

These are the targeted areas that we believe require the most attention as we try to face challenges affecting the well-being of our children and young people.

In this brief intervention, I wish to reiterate my Government's appreciation to UNICEF, including the local office in Jamaica and the invaluable work it is carrying out in support of our national efforts. Our appreciation also goes to the Executive Board for the interest it has attached to ensuring the integrity of the body. Here in the UN, we are of course sensitive to the reform agenda in which member states are actively engaged in discussions to better deliver on our commitments. We look forward to exploring ways and means of simplifying procedures within the Funds and Programmes of the UN, including the reduction in the time frame for the country programme approval process.