

**STATEMENT BY MRS. RUCHI GHANASHYAM
MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN
AT THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD 2007 ON 16 JANUARY 2007**

**AGENDA ITEM 3:
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Mr. President,

We would like to congratulate you and the other Bureau members on your appointment and thank the outgoing Bureau and its President for their work during 2006. We also thank Ms. Veneman for the report and her statement.

Mr. President,

We agree with the Annual Report to ECOSOC that the MDGs cannot be achieved without special efforts to reach the 49% of the developing world's population who are children. We note the partnerships being built for enhancing UNICEF's capacity to deliver better results for children. The report also contains useful examples of UNICEF's work in many areas of its mandate, including child survival and development. It would be useful to hear from UNICEF how the evaluation of lessons learnt is being undertaken to both take forward the useful inputs while learning from experiments that did not yield the expected results.

Mr. President,

We agree with para 10 of the report that UNICEF needs a predictable, long-term and increased base of core resources to enhance effectiveness. We support UNICEF's request for enhanced voluntary contributions to core resources and, where possible, multi-year commitments. We would request the Executive Director to expand on the funding figures contained in paragraph 9 of the report.

Mr. President,

We have seen the report's contents under Section D 'Coherence, effectiveness and relevance of operational activities for development'. We have also heard the views expressed by several delegations on the report of the High Level Panel on Systemwide Coherence. Like others, we are in the process of studying the Panel's report and its recommendations. We agree that there is need for intergovernmental consideration of the report's contents by the General Assembly. But before such an intergovernmental process can start, Member States, especially programme countries, need to fully understand the implications of the recommendations of the Panel's report. We would also emphasize the need for a careful and deliberate approach as opposed to rushing headlong into implementation. We agree with the view expressed that the purpose of reform is not just to improve the way UN agencies work but to improve their working methods with the objective of improving their effectiveness and the delivery of results for developing countries. Operative para 10 of TCPR (GA resolution 59/250) that stresses the purpose of reform provides guidance in this regard. An evaluation of ongoing reforms, even as we consider further reforms, should be a useful way forward. Specifically on the Panel report's recommendations on 'Business Practices', we believe that ideas similar to some of the report's recommendations under this Section, are separately the subject of discussion in the 5th Committee of the General Assembly. These discussions are continuing. We believe that implementation of such recommendations should be considered after the conclusion of the deliberations in the 5th Committee, as Members of this Executive Board would benefit from the conclusions of those deliberations.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for UNICEF's efforts in pursuit of its important mandate.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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