

Annual Session
UNICEF Executive Board
UNHQ New York
14 June 2016

INDIA STATEMENT
First Secretary Mohd. Noor Rahman Sheikh

Mr. President,

We welcome the comprehensive Report of UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake as well as Report of the Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

As a well-recognized agency of the United Nations around the world, UNICEF's activities for the well-being of children have been appreciated.

In our long-standing relationship with UNICEF for almost 7 decades, we have been working together towards achieving common objectives and has resulted in numerous successes including eradication of polio.

Mr. President,

We note that at mid-point of the Strategic Plan 2014-17, out of 7 outcome areas in the Strategic Plan, UNICEF has performed quite well in health; water, sanitation and hygiene (*WASH*); nutrition; education; child protection; and social inclusion. On HIV and AIDS, accelerated efforts are needed to scale up HIV prevention services, especially for adolescents.

Mr. President,

Despite progress on several indicators on situation of children worldwide, nearly half of the world's 2.3 billion children continue to suffer from poverty and millions are vulnerable to existing and emerging challenges including climate change, epidemics and natural disasters.

Children occupy a key place in the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030. Eradication of extreme poverty and access to education are priority areas to achieve well-being of children around the world.

In this context, we are happy to note that in 2015, UNICEF increased its work with Governments and civil society partners to encourage a child focus for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has been working closely with United Nations partners to respond to the unique and complex challenges and opportunities that it presents.

Mr. President,

In view of the need for enhanced activities of UNICEF for the achievement of SDGs, increased regular resources are required to ensure strategic, responsive and predictable planning and

decisions for results delivery.

We also note that due to the humanitarian crisis in the last 2 years, huge part of the funding for UNICEF has been used for Emergency Response. In UNICEF's projection of a decreased requirement for lesser humanitarian emergency funding in 2016 and 2017, we need to be cautious in our approach as millions of children remain vulnerable to humanitarian crisis. We need to remain ready to strengthen our response.

Mr. President,

Executive Director's report has pointed to the need for continuing the South-South Cooperation with an aim to achieve a better world for the children. India takes pride in its efforts at South-South Cooperation. At the same time, it needs to be appreciated that North-South Cooperation is declining and needs to be scaled up to help meet objectives of 2030 Agenda including the well being of children around the world. South-South Cooperation should only be considered as a complement for North-South Cooperation and not a substitute for it.

Mr. President,

We also look forward to the forthcoming negotiations for the QCPR (Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review) for the operational activities of the UN Development System including UNICEF to achieve SDGs.

India has been making regular contributions to UNICEF and we would like to renew India's commitment to work closely with UNICEF.

Thank you.
