



## Economic and Social Council

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**For action**

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### United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

**Second regular session 2010**

7-9 September 2010

Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

### **Recommendation to the Executive Board**

#### **Extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus Programme of Rotary International**

#### *Summary*

The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve a further five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus Programme of Rotary International for the period 2011 to 2015, in accordance with the terms of the original Executive Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), as amended by Executive Board decision 2005/12.

1. Rotary International (Rotary) is one of the most important partners of UNICEF. For more than 25 years, Rotarians worldwide have joined with UNICEF to provide support for the procurement of *poliomyelitis* vaccine and cold chain, and for social mobilization activities in developing countries as part of global efforts to eradicate polio. Rotary, through its PolioPlus programme established in 1985, committed itself to working towards a polio-free world; over the years, more than 1 million Rotarians have volunteered their time to this effort and mobilized more than \$900 million for the cause. Rotary has pledged to provide funds for the *poliomyelitis* vaccine to developing countries until the disease is eradicated.

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\* E/ICEF/2010/15.

2. The World Health Assembly launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988, when over 125 countries were considered to be endemic for the disease, with an estimated 350,000 children paralysed each year. Rotary and UNICEF joined the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in leading the GPEI.

3. By 2009, the eradication strategy had resulted in a 99 per cent drop in the annual incidence of the disease globally and the elimination of the indigenous virus serotypes in most of the 125 countries identified as endemic in 1988.

4. Despite these significant successes, remaining reservoirs continued in areas of four countries while other countries suffered new importations.

5. The partnership between UNICEF and Rotary continues to be a vital element of global efforts to eradicate polio and both organizations are committed to this long-standing and close working relationship. Rotary has indicated that it expects to continue contributions to UNICEF from 2011 to 2015.

6. The partnership between UNICEF and Rotary was formally established in accordance with document E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35, and has been extended by the Executive Board since then, most recently for the period 2005 to 2010 (pursuant to decision 2005/12).

7. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve a further five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary for the period 2011-2015, in accordance with the original Executive Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), as amended by Executive Board decision 2005/12.

### **Draft decision**

8. UNICEF recommends that the Executive Board approve the following draft decision:

*The Executive Board*

*Approves* a five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International for the period 2011 to 2015, in accordance with the terms of the original Executive Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), as amended by Executive Board decision 2005/12.