

## New Regional Director for UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean

Geneva/New York/Panama City, 3 August, 2009 – UNICEF announced today the appointment of Mr Bernt Aasen as its new Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Aasen takes over from Mr. Nils Kastberg, and will begin his duties today.



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Aasen said he was very pleased to return to a region where he had lived and worked for over 15 years. “There have been many positive changes in Latin America and the Caribbean in these last few years but the challenges to ensure the rights of children remain,” he said. “However, most countries have made great strides in terms of democratic participation and strengthening of institutions, which provide new opportunities to confront these challenges successfully.”

Born in Norway, Aasen was UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and Chief of Operation Lifeline Sudan between 2002 and 2004. During his UNICEF career he has worked as representative in Afghanistan, Deputy Director a.i. in the Office of Emergency Programmes, Director in charge of UN coherence issues and chief of staff at UNICEF’s New York headquarters.

Aasen also has vast experience with UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean, where he was representative in Nicaragua and Mexico and served as Project Officer in Honduras and Head of Office in Panama.

### About UNICEF

UNICEF is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world’s largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of

children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

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