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Recommendations to the Executive Board

Extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication and extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative

Summary

The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve the following:

(a) A five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International for the period 2006 to 2010, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), and an increase of \$10 million in the other resources programme amount, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions from Rotary International;

(b) A five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 2006 to 2010, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1991/P/L.41).

I. Extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication

1. In September 2000, the Executive Board approved a five-year extension of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.47, decision 2000/14) to provide support to national immunization programmes for polio eradication activities globally. Since the

* E/ICEF/2005/10.

inception of this programme, Rotary International has provided nearly \$185 million to UNICEF for polio eradication efforts in 79 countries, and has been one of the most important donors in supporting global polio eradication efforts.

2. Since 1988, the number of polio cases annually has decreased from an estimated 350,000 to some 1,263 confirmed cases in 2004. At the end of 2004, six countries remained polio-endemic (Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan); polio transmission had been re-established in six previously polio-free countries (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Sudan); and a further six countries (Botswana, Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Saudi Arabia) had reported cases due to importation of polio virus. This was the result of a polio outbreak that originated in northern Nigeria during a year-long suspension of polio vaccinations and spread across West and Central Africa and threatened the Horn of Africa. Rotary International has indicated its long-standing and close working relationship with UNICEF, and expects to contribute \$10 million to UNICEF from 2006 to 2010 for the purchase of oral polio vaccines and operational costs.

3. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve a five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International for the period 2006 to 2010, in accordance with the original Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), and an increase of \$10 million in funding from other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions from Rotary International.

II. Extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative

4. In 2000, the Executive Board approved a five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII) (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.47, decision 2000/14). VII is an interregional programme, which created and capitalized a guarantee fund to enhance the ability of developing countries to procure, with hard or their own currencies, high-quality, low-cost vaccines in quantities adequate to reach all children and sustain immunization services and disease control goals. The original programme was approved for the period 1991-1995, and was extended in 1996 and 2000 in the amount of \$10 million in other resources. The Executive Board approved the extension in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35).

5. To date, 23 countries (12, plus the 11 Pacific Island countries) have agreements through VII for use of the guarantee fund. Eight countries which previously were using VII have changed to direct use of UNICEF procurement services.

6. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve a five-year extension of VII for the period 2006 to 2010, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document, with the current available funding from other resources in the amount of \$8.3 million, so that participating countries will be able to shift to the procurement services mechanism.