Madam President

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Austria, Canada, Colombia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and my own country, Switzerland.

First, I would like to thank the Private Fundraising and Partnerships Team for their tremendous efforts in these very challenging times.

We commend you for the encouraging results of 95 million supporters reached to advocate for child rights. Also, income from businesses has surpassed the 2019 target by 20% and Unicef has engaged in more partnerships with businesses than before, reaching an estimated 34 million children by interventions involving businesses, an impressive 140% increase compared with 2018.

We also recognize that regular resource revenue from private sector has again surpassed regular resource contributions from the public sector thanks to the efforts of the National Committees and UNICEF Country Offices.

However, we note with concern the reliance on individual donors when it comes to private sector regular resources revenues. We would welcome
your analysis of the obstacles and opportunities for generating regular resources from other private sector sources. With a view to the discussion on cost recovery later during this Board, RR contributions should make most sense to private sectors donors financially speaking. No cost recovery rates apply here. Second-best, so to speak, are thematic contributions, “taxed” with only 5% when coming through National Committees according to the new cost recovery policy. The least attractive option for the private sector are earmarked contributions where the regular 8% cost recovery rate applies, as per the new cost recovery policy. Here, the presented policy draft is misleading in its presentation of rates but proposed decision language is expected to clarify this matter.

Nonetheless, while we recognize that private sector donors prefer earmarked contributions in terms of visibility and attribution of their funding, we still hope that preferential rates for thematic contributions and no cost recovery rates at all for non-earmarked contributions could stimulate more high quality private sector donations.

We would like to hear more from UNICEF on why RR income from other private sector sources appears so difficult to obtain.

Of concern is the contraction of overall resources from the private sector for the second consecutive year which remain 20% short of the revised 2019 target. On a positive note, revenue generation by National Committees has increased and regular resources continue to prevail over other resources even if in absolute terms they have decreased.

Given the challenging global fundraising situation, we welcome the application of more conservative PFP revenue projections. UNICEF should carefully review if private sector revenue growth expectations
were overly optimistic and UNICEF should ensure in the future that revenue targets are realistic and achievable.

The present, challenging fundraising situation calls for diversification and innovative approaches. In this regard, we welcome the proposed strategic priorities for 2020 and beyond, namely 1) Identification of alternative financing solutions; 2) Acceleration through the use of digital technologies; 3) Continuation of the roll-out of business for results initiative; 4) Enhancing the National Committees contribution to achieving the SDGs in high-income countries.

We would welcome more information on UNICEF’s strategic approach to these priorities. How will they contribute to an increase of regular resources, notably from institutional donors? What is behind the ideas for a potential revolving fund? What are expectations with regards to the generation of regular resources at country level and what is the role of country offices?

The Business for results initiative has been ongoing for some time now and we would be interested to learn more about results achieved and planned interventions. Will the Business for results initiative formally contribute to the next strategic plan’s integrated results framework? We took note that the actual expenses for Private Sector Engagement remain 27% below the approved budget for 2019 at a similar level as in 2018. We deem the engagement with private sector to deliver on results for children in the frame of Unicef’s strategic plan paramount and would like to hear more about Unicef’s strategic approach to working with businesses and planned results.

Further, the report also mentions the multi-stakeholder Connecting Business initiative hosted by the United Nations. As we are keen to see
more examples of concrete collaboration amongst UN-agencies with regards to private sector engagement we would welcome more information on this initiative in next year’s reporting.

As we look forward to support you in the elaboration of Unicef’s next private sector engagement plan, we would like to reiterate our appreciation of the work done by the PFP Director and his Team, the National Committees and UNICEF country offices.

Thank you.