

Agenda Item 7
Report on the accountability system of UNICEF

Chair, Madam Executive Director

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union as a donor.

We welcome the comprehensive report on the updated UNICEF accountability system and note the many improvements put in place since 2009. We appreciate UNICEF's regular reporting to the Board as part of this system. Accountability is a key element of partnership. We therefore welcome the assurance that UNICEF places individual and mutual accountability and transparency at the centre of its operations and look forward to receiving regular updates about compliance with the accountability system.

In terms of organizational accountability, we appreciate UNICEF's work on results monitoring against the programme documents approved by the Board and its regular sharing of audits, anti-fraud measures and evaluations. We also strongly support UNICEF's commitment to continue supporting the enhanced Resident Coordinator system and coordination structures at headquarters, regional and country levels.

We commend UNICEF's commitment to programmatic and management accountability. In particular, we welcome the consultation process taking place before the adoption of the Country Programme Documents, which are at the core of UNICEF's country-based approach. We note the

crucial role of UNICEF country representatives in the management and success of country programmes and the importance of cooperation with programme partners. We appreciate efforts in terms of capacity-building and national ownership. We would also welcome more information about the measures UNICEF will put in place in order to further improve accountability to affected populations.

We appreciate UNICEF's work with other UN entities for system-wide frameworks, for instance the Management and Accountability Framework. We encourage UNICEF to continue deepening its work with UN country team partners at the inter-agency level and coordinating with sister agencies to work towards collective outcomes, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator or Humanitarian Coordinator.

We acknowledge the emphasis on individual accountability, in line with UNICEF's decentralized structure. We welcome UNICEF's risk management policy and its support to risk-informed decision-making. However, we would be interested to know which measures and tools are being put in place in order to ensure that all UNICEF staff is familiar and fully compliant with the accountability system.

We strongly support UNICEF's zero tolerance policy for all forms of fraud and corruption and encourage UNICEF to continue pursuing a transparent approach. We appreciate the work of the Board of Auditors as well as the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations, whose internal audit function is crucial to promoting accountability and integrity.

Thank you.