The UNICEF Executive Board Special Focus Session on Equity will provide an opportunity to review progress and reflect on key lessons related to equity for children over the last five years. UNICEF announced its equity refocus in June 2010, orienting UNICEF programmes, operations, partnerships, innovation and advocacy towards a vision of every child having a fair chance in life. The equity refocus was driven by evidence that emerged in 2010 showing that, despite major aggregate progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for children in many countries, those advances were often highly uneven. A UNICEF study that year, *Narrowing the Gaps to Meet the Goals*, demonstrated that prioritizing underserved people not only is their right in principle but also can be highly cost-effective, given the right mix of programmes, policies and a supportive enabling environment. The aim of UNICEF since that time, as reflected in the Strategic Plan 2014–2017, has been to focus efforts on the most disadvantaged children, providing them with greater opportunities to access the essential services and protections that are their rights.

The equity agenda focuses on creating fair, equitable opportunities for disadvantaged children—which in turn helps reduce inequalities in the next generation. In light of this, the Special Focus Session is expected to reinforce the centrality of equity for children within sustainable development and the post-2015 development framework.

In his opening remarks before the Special Focus Session, the Executive Director will explain how UNICEF has worked with partners to implement its equity refocus over the past five years, will briefly summarize progress and gaps, and will review the case for equity’s being central to successful implementation of the emerging set of Sustainable Development Goals.

The Executive Director will then introduce guest speaker Ms. Rebeca Grynspan. Ms. Grynspan held a number of Cabinet positions before becoming Vice-President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998. She was elected to her current post, Ibero-American Secretary General, in February 2014. Drawing on progress and lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean and around the world, Ms. Grynspan will highlight the role of equity in reducing the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

Member States will then be invited to make comments on the issue and/or review their own progress, lessons and future plans related to equity for children. Also invited to contribute will be Executive Board observers, including Mr. Kevin Jenkins, CEO of World Vision International, who will reflect on key lessons learned over the past five years by child-focused international development NGOs.

The Executive Director will give concluding remarks, emphasizing that a fair chance for every child means less inequality in the next generation, and that strong partnerships are required to realize this objective.