

Leading Group on innovative financing for development

11th Plenary Session – Helsinki 6th February 2013

UNICEF Statement

Ms. Marilena Viviani, Associate Director, Programme Partnerships, UNICEF Geneva.

HE M. Pascal Canfin, Minister-Delegate in charge of Development of France, Permanent Secretariat of the Leading Group.

HE Ms. Heidi Hautala, Minister for International Development of Finland,

HE Mr. Pekka Hukka, Ambassador for Innovative Financing

Excellencies, Distinguished participants

- Many thanks for the opportunity to give some short remarks on behalf of UNICEF. We would like to thank also the French Government for the Leadership as Permanent Secretariat of the Leading Group and the Finnish Government for the current Presidency and for hosting this meeting today. We wish also to thank all our partners and donors represented here for their continued support and involvement in mobilising resources for children.
- Since 2000, many innovative instruments have been crafted to help finance achievement of the MDGs. Development actors have championed an array of initiatives such as global solidarity levies, frontloading future aid commitments, and results-based financing.
- UNICEF has used innovative fundraising tools marrying public and private sources to provide concrete results for children, particularly the most disadvantaged. More recently UNICEF has been an active partner and a beneficiary of three successful innovative financing structures that have made a difference in the area of health – UNITAID, the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm), and Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) with GAVI.

*UNITAID: partnership in PMTCT and Malaria in 18 countries since 2007.
* IFFI more than 1 B USD in more than 70 countries for immunization.
*AMC for pneumococcal vaccine, 7.7 million lives to be saved by 2030.
- As the financial crisis takes its toll on gains achieved towards the MDGs and as the costs of adapting to climate change are on the rise, the role of innovative finance for development as a complement to traditional ODA is more important for children than ever.

- Through our engagement we also want to ensure that the development of these new instruments is in line with our collective commitments towards aid effectiveness embodied in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. Innovative sources of finance for development should use existing or improved financing mechanisms that are country-based to the extent possible, and not necessarily lead to the creation of new funds.
- Moving forward, UNICEF remains fully engaged in developing these instruments, beyond health, in areas that can make a difference for the poor and most vulnerable children. One illustration is our participation to the Working Group on Education under the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development.
- With our upcoming Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2014-2017, UNICEF will further intensify efforts to address inequities and reach the most disadvantaged and excluded children, so that they may realize their right to survive and thrive. As we move beyond the timeline for the MDGs, it is becoming increasingly clear that innovative sources of financing from non-traditional sources will be crucial to closing the funding gap to achieve development outcome targets in the post- 2015 period.
- This includes our support to influence the overall discourse on innovative financing to create the required political and policy space; and it includes maintaining the focus on ‘additionality’ and the need to deliver on existing ODA commitments despite the current economic environment; and it includes anticipating possible scenarios for the governance of new IDF-pooled funding and resource allocation mechanisms.
- UNICEF hopes that through continued partnership we can continue to identify emerging leveraging opportunities for children. We owe this to them, not only for their present but also for their future (Save the gains of MDGs and invest in sustainable development).
- Thank you.