

Agenda Item 7

National statement to be delivered by Tove Wennergren, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Mister President, Madam Executive Director,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Thank you for the presentation of the results of the evaluation of UNICEF's role as a cluster-lead agency. Sweden congratulates you for the significant improvements that have been made since the previous evaluation in 2013. The evaluation is timely and essential and will contribute positively to further equipping UNICEF as a cluster lead agency in a global context with rapidly growing humanitarian needs.

UNICEF has a critical role in the humanitarian system and as a cluster lead agency and Sweden acknowledges the major responsibility that has been given to the organisation and appreciate the major role UNICEF plays in leading the clusters in many humanitarian crises.

The identification of areas where UNICEF has strengths and weaknesses are welcomed and we look forward to following the implementation of the recommendations made in the management response.

One of UNICEF's strengths is its coordination role. However, there is still room for improvement to make the cluster coordination work more strategically and effectively and to launch it as an attractive work path within the agency.

As the leading agency on cluster coordination, UNICEF plays an important role in sharing knowledge, experience and lessons learnt. The evaluation highlights the importance of a coordination and cluster system but there is also a need to analyse, clarify and define these systems given the fundamental shifts that have taken place in the humanitarian landscape during the last few years.

Sweden aligns with the conclusions and recommendation of the evaluation and would like to stress in particular the need for UNICEF to continue to work on

securing adequate leadership, sufficient staff and financial resources for this task. Coordination needs to become more strategic, leaner and better integrated in the overall work of the organisation. Linking this work to the efforts being made under the recommendations of the Humanitarian Review will be important.

Thank you.