

UNICEF

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Statement made in the Third Committee,
by the Canadian representative,
Mr. Raymond Chrétien, on December 15, 1967.

Thank you, Madame Chairman,

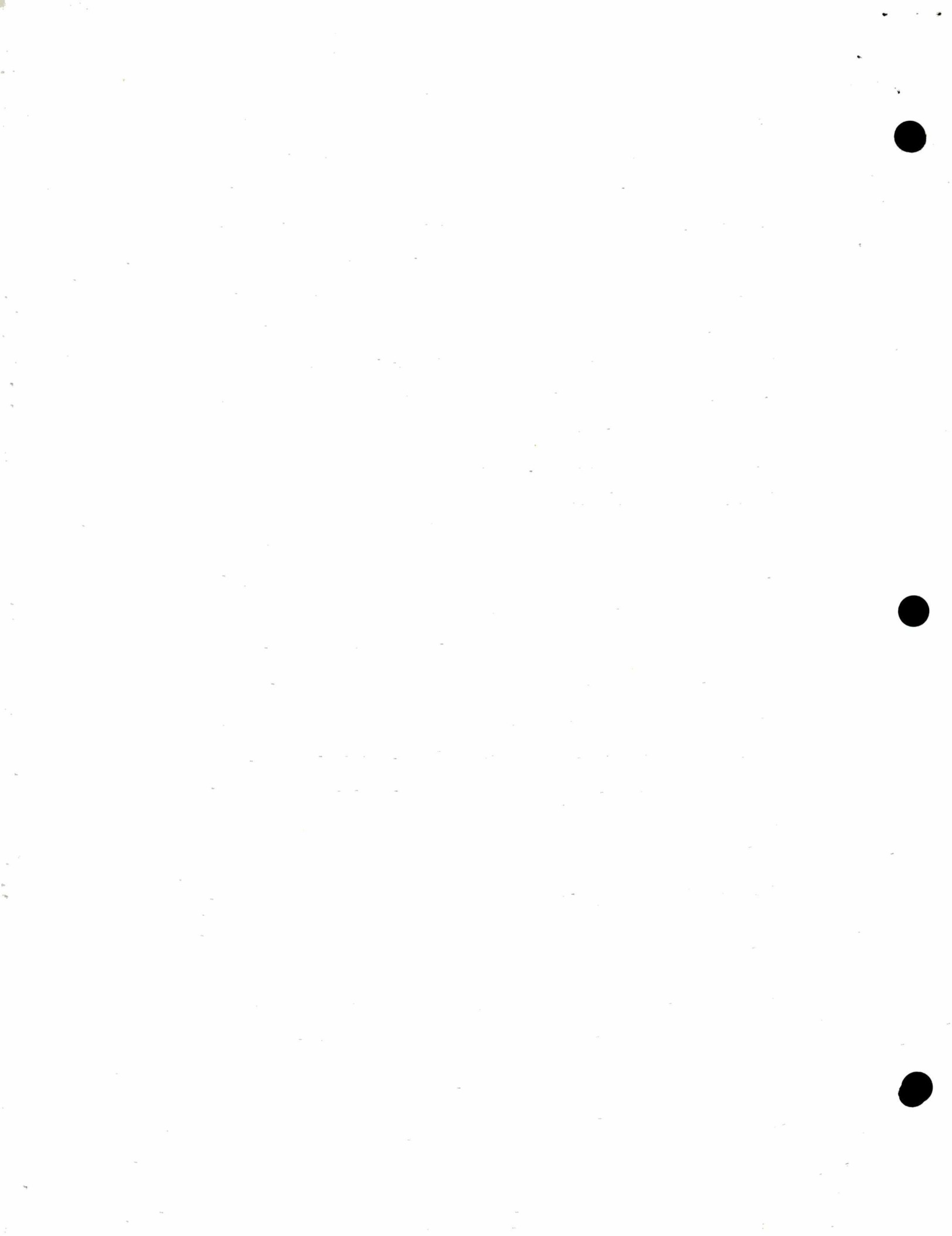
Madame Chairman, my delegation would like to associate itself with the other delegations which have thanked Mr. Labouisse for the clear and informative statement he has just made.

My delegation would like also to welcome, as the distinguished representative of Philippines has done, the delegations of Romania, Tunisia, Uganda, India, Indonesia, Botswana, the Dominican Republic and Thailand as co-sponsors of the resolution now before us.

Madame Chairman, we would also like to thank you for your kind remarks, on behalf of the Committee, directed towards Mrs. Sinclair who, as you just mentioned, retired from UNICEF this year. We will be happy to convey your thoughts to her.

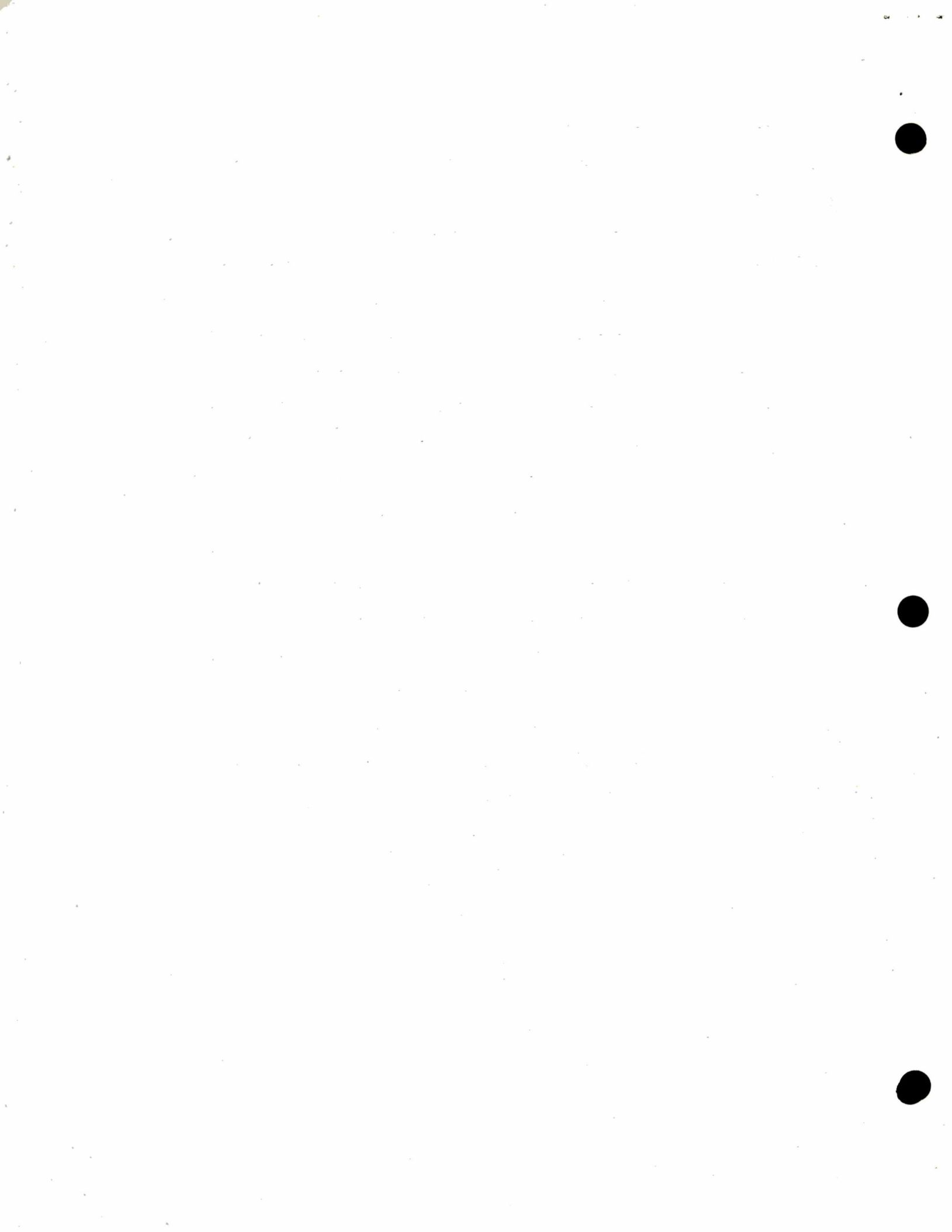
Madame Chairman, the Canadian delegation approves wholeheartedly the action taken by the Economic and Social Council when it reviewed the Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund. Resolution 1258 (XLIII), which was passed unanimously, clearly indicates the confidence which members of the Council have in the Fund and its operations. As Canada was one of the co-sponsors of that Resolution it is a pleasure for us to repeat the endorsement on this occasion.

I do not intend to speak at length about this organization which is so well known throughout the world. Indeed one of UNICEF's greatest assets is its universality. As members of the Committee know



the Fund receives financial support from 119 countries and is currently assisting projects in 117 countries and territories in developing regions. As the ECOSOC resolution has noted, project assistance, while not disregarding emergency aid, is increasingly being directed to programs that develop long term benefits to mothers and children, a trend that my country supports. There is always the temptation -- a very proper and understandable temptation -- to respond to the most immediate and pressing needs. They are immense. They are present in differing ways in the lives of 900 million children. An yet, Madame Chairman, if the cycle that perpetuates those needs is to be broken, assistance must be given to projects that effectively break the cycle. UNICEF assistance is particularly well suited to that task in that its program has a major catalytic effect in the national development programs of many countries. I might mention in this connection the extremely important role played by the UNICEF field staff in assisting national planners and other government officials in understanding that investment in children and youth is investment in future developmental capacity. The humanitarian objectives of the Fund have a very practical consequence -- one that is vital to the longer term goals of social progress.

The ECOSOC Resolution commended the Fund for its close co-operation with the Specialized and other agencies of the United Nations family. At a time when the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Coordination is undertaking a review of the whole question of coordination, it is particularly appropriate to draw the Third Committee's attention to this important feature of the UNICEF



operation. Such co-operation assists the Fund in utilizing its resources wisely and efficiently -- resources that must be increased if the current level of allocations is to be maintained.

Finally, Madame Chairman, I should like to draw attention to the way in which UNICEF has demonstrated that it is possible for international agencies to involve ordinary citizens in programs of international co-operation. Through the National UNICEF Committees in some twenty-three countries many thousands of men, women and children are made aware of the vast unmet needs of mankind and given an opportunity to do something personnel and tangible about them. In my own country a very active UNICEF Committee is raising approximately \$1 million per year. The record is similar in other countries. UNICEF's ability to capture the heart and mind of so many people and to turn their attention to the human rights of all peoples, no matter where they live, deserves the highest praise from this Committee, Madame Chairman, that has been giving so much attention to the practical ways in which human rights can be realized.

My delegation is very pleased to co-sponsor the resolution commending the work of the United Nations Children's Fund and hopes it will be given unanimous support.

Thank you, Madame Chairman.

