Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director GPE UNICEF PLEDGE Brussels, Belgium June 26, 2014

UNICEF's <u>commitment</u> to education is matched by our <u>investment</u> in education, with \$712 million invested in basic education and gender equality last year — and over 12 per cent of our global humanitarian funding dedicated to education in emergencies.

But investments alone don't bring results to life. These programmes — and the results they achieve — are brought to life by our staff members. Each and every day, they're working in communities, and with partner organizations around the world — like the GPE — to translate the right that every child has to education into reality.

And so I'm <u>proud</u> to make this pledge on behalf of the over 600 UNICEF staff members who are managing education programmes in 142 countries around the world.

PLEDGE:

UNICEF will prioritize and advocate for education in emergencies, through:

- Allocating significant resources to education in emergencies and encouraging others to do the same.
- Advocating for a balance between emergency education provision and longer-term investments to strengthen education systems.
- Generating new knowledge in education and peacebuilding and supporting countries to assess and manage risks.

<u>UNICEF</u> will identify and scale up innovations to improve education equity and learning outcomes for disadvantaged children, through:

- Supporting programs with the potential to reach the most marginalized children, such as multi-lingual education, child-centered pedagogy and technology.
- Strengthening work on learning outcomes, including measuring learning, teacher training, improving school leadership and management.
- Providing technical guidance and standards to governments and other partners for the construction of schools that are accessible to children with disabilities, and advocating strongly for the adoption of these standards.

<u>UNICEF</u> will focus efforts on expanding education for girls, in particular those countries where girls' education lags behind that of boys, through:

- Supporting policies and programs with the potential to improve education outcomes for the most marginalized girls, up to secondary school.
- Intensifying efforts to address school-related gender based violence.
- Measuring gender parity in access and learning outcomes in all program countries, across pre-primary, primary and secondary education.
- Hosting and supporting the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI).

<u>UNICEF</u> will increase access to quality early learning opportunities for all children, through:

- Working with national governments to promote right-age enrolment into good quality early childhood learning opportunities, including the adoption and implementation of early learning standards and metrics.
- Supporting the delivery of early learning services in disadvantaged areas.

UNICEF will lead the data revolution for equity, through:

- Supporting partner governments to generate data on out-of-school children, through the Out of School Children Initiative led by UNICEF and UIS.
- Sharpening the collection of data on children with disabilities by strengthening Education Management Information Systems and MICS and Household Surveys.