

Statement by Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, UNICEF

NOW, MORE THAN EVER: STOP POLIO FOREVER

Thank you very much Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I'm sorry I'm not able to be with you in person, but I'm delighted to be able to speak to you through this video link. Frankly, given how terrible the weather is in New York, I wish I was with you in person, today. But it is the time of executive board meeting, let me not to repeat, but just add UNICEF's deep commitment in this case.

Together in what perhaps has been the most extraordinary partnerships over the past 15 years, governments involved, WHO, Rotary, CDC and UNICEF, we've come an enormous distance. So many children's lives have been bettered as a result of this partnership. We are in the brink of ridding the world as Dr Lee just said, of polio. Again, as we know there are only a few countries where polio is still endemic, we also know that we've had a little slip-age this year but we are so close to victory. We can't let this victory slip through our fingers. So let me just say on behalf of UNICEF we are committed, we are committed even strengthening our efforts to work closely with you.

Every child has a right to grow to be a healthy adult. We are committed to that, we know you are committed to that, let's win this victory. Thank you.