Statement by Mrs. Namgya Khampa, First Secretary, on Agenda Item 9: Pledging Event at the First Regular Session 2010 of the UNICEF Executive Board on January 13, 2010

Mr. President,

India’s close and productive association with UNICEF dates back to the agency’s inception and is based on our strong and abiding faith in the relevance of UNICEF’s message and mandate.

This mandate is even more important today as we pass through turbulent times brought on by the current economic crisis, which has a disproportionately deleterious impact on the most vulnerable sections of society, including children.

Mr. President,

We reiterate our commitment to support UNICEF in its mission to meet the basic needs of children worldwide and help create protective and nurturing environments for children to reach their full potential.

In this regard, I wish to inform the Board that the Government of India has already pledged US $900,000 to UNICEF for the year 2010. The announcement to this effect was made by India at the 2009 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held on 9th November, 2009.

Finally, we would like to once again express our appreciation for UNICEF’s efforts in pursuit of its important mandate.

Thank you, Mr. President.