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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication and extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative

SUMMARY

The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the following:

(a) A five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International for the period 1996 to 2000, in accordance with the original Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), and an increase of \$60 million in the supplementary funding programme amount, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions from Rotary International;

(b) A five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 1996 to 2000, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1991/P/L.41), without any changes.

* E/ICEF/1996/9.

I. EXTENSION OF COOPERATION WITH ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
FOR POLIO ERADICATION

1. In 1990, the Executive Board approved a five-year programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35) to provide support to national immunization programmes for polio eradication activities from 1990 to 1994 (E/ICEF/1990/13, decision 1990/8). Since the inception of this programme, Rotary International has provided over \$100 million to UNICEF and has been one of the most important donors in supporting routine and now supplemental vaccine needs for polio eradication activities.

2. Since 1980, the number of polio cases reported annually has decreased from 400,000 to under 4,000 in 1995. Rotary International has indicated its long-standing and close working relationship with UNICEF. Rotary International expects to contribute \$60 million to UNICEF from 1995 to 2000 for the purchase of oral polio vaccine.

3. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve a five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International for the period 1996 to 2000, in accordance with the original Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), and an increase of \$60 million in the supplementary funding programme amount, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions from Rotary International.

II. EXTENSION OF THE VACCINE INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE

4. In 1991, the Executive Board approved the establishment of the Vaccine Independence Initiative (E/ICEF/1991/P/L.41), an interregional programme to create and capitalize a revolving fund to enhance the ability of developing countries to procure, with their own currencies, high-quality, low-cost vaccines in quantities adequate to reach and sustain universal child immunization and the disease control goals of the decade. The programme was approved for the period 1991-1995 in the amount of \$10 million in supplementary funds, subject to availability of specific-purpose contributions (E/ICEF/1991/15, decision 1991/12).

5. Since its establishment, the Vaccine Independence Initiative has made good progress. The programme has been well received by both beneficiary countries and donors, and continues to play an important role in increasing the financial sustainability of national immunization programmes, a key UNICEF objective.

6. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve a five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 1996 to 2000, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1991/P/L.41), without any changes, so that it may continue to offer countries the possibility of procuring vaccines with their own currencies to meet global disease control goals.
