

UN Women Second Regular Session 2017 :

CANZ Statement – August 29th

Thank you, Madam President

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Canada, Australia and my own country, New Zealand.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank UN Women management and staff for the tremendous effort in developing a Strategic Plan that is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that strives to make a valuable contribution to the UN Secretary-General's reform agenda.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand commend UN Women for its openness and willingness to work with Member States in the development of its Strategic Plan. The process has been positive and transparent and has given all Member States a genuine opportunity to contribute.

We are pleased to see that the strategic plan builds on lessons learned and recent evaluation recommendations, particularly a more focused and coordinated approach to UN Women's convening role and partnerships to catalyze change for women and girls everywhere.

We respect and understand that the Plan presented to the Board provides a considered and balanced way forward for UN Women. It is with this in mind that we encourage all Member States to support the Strategic Plan as it is and to work with UN Women to ensure its full and effective delivery.

Madam President,

We would like to be clear, however, that there is scope to do more on a number of key issues.

Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is a critical component of UN Women's mandate. Sexual and reproductive health and rights is a human rights issue. Violations of sexual and reproductive rights, particularly for women and girls, are often deeply engrained in societal values pertaining to women's sexuality and gender norms.

For this reason, it is important to understand the linkages between SRHR and people's economic and education status, risk of sexual and gender-based violence, harmful social and cultural practices, and legal structures that influence these elements, which are part of UN Women's mandate. We applaud UN Women for showing leadership in addressing the barriers that prevent women, children and adolescents from realizing their rights through their programming.

We would also support UN Women continuing to strengthen its efforts on disability inclusion.

We also welcome efforts to improve the integrated results and resource framework. We note, however, that there is still work to be done to define a logical flow from outputs to outcome. This is critical for UN Women to be able to report on all levels of the framework to tell a more compelling results story from year to year.

We strongly encourage UN Women's regional and country offices to ensure they reflect the priorities and direction of the Strategic Plan in their own strategies and business plans.

Madam President,

We wish to thank UN Women for the frank assessments in its Structured Dialogue on Financing. We are pleased that UN Women continues to strive to identify and secure new and innovative sources of funding, and we recognise that diversifying revenue sources brings new challenges and risks. We offer our full support to UN Women in taking on this challenge.

We also encourage UN Women to leverage private sources of capital to work towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

In planning for the future, we urge UN Women to balance its ambition to mobilise resources with a grounded understanding of expected income and budgets, along with a sharp focus on prioritisation and maximising UN Women's unique value-add.

We again congratulate UN Women on completing the initial strategic planning process, and Canada, Australia and New Zealand look forward to engaging on its implementation over the next four years.

Thank you, Madam President.