



**UN-Women Executive Board  
Annual Session 2017, 29-30 August 2017  
Item 2 Strategic Plan**

**Statement by Finland  
H.E. Mr. Jouni Laaksonen  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations**

Madam President, Executive Director, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating you, Madam Phumzile, once again on your reappointment as the Executive Director of UN Women. We look forward to continuing our fruitful co-operation.

I also wish to congratulate you and your team for drafting the new Strategic Plan. We are supportive of the final version and we are pleased to endorse the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 in this session. We appreciate the transparent and inclusive process during the past months. Your team has made great efforts in taking into account the various comments. We recognize it was not an easy task and we understand that compromises were necessary.

Madam President,

Having said this, we would like to raise two points which in our view would have merited more attention in the Strategic Plan.

We are pleased that eliminating multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination is well included in the narrative part of the Strategic Plan. However, we think that in the Integrated Results and Resources Framework indicators could have been stronger in order to measure better how UN Women strengthens the rights of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting discrimination, in particular the rights of women and girls with disabilities. We expect UN Women to deliver concrete results in this regard during the next four-year period.

Finland can proudly say that gender equality is a key element in our country's successful rise from poverty to prosperity. We need both women and men to make our society thrive and we need women to contribute to our society equally with men. Based on our own experience we emphasize the importance of the economic empowerment of women in which sexual and reproductive health and rights play a vital role. SRHR is an important enabler for women and girls to use their full potential in society. We would have preferred stronger language on SRHR in the strategic plan.

Madam President,

UN Women has assured us that the organization will strive effectively and efficiently for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda under the guidance of the QCPR resolution, including in strengthening partnerships. Regarding the Common Chapter we will follow closely its implementation and we expect concrete results in this regard as well.

Madam President,

We agree that one of UN Women's priorities is to mobilize new resources, engage new donors and broaden the donor base. As one of the biggest donors of UN Women we continue to emphasize the importance of core resources. They are a prerequisite for the full implementation of the Strategic Plan. We urge UN Women to make more visible the positive results achieved with core funding.

Finally, we realize well that many challenges lie ahead in implementing the new Strategic Plan. I want to assure UN Women that Finland supports you in this endeavor.

Thank you, Madam President.