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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT BY RUTH ANDREYEVA
DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADOR OF THE UK MISSION TO THE UN
IN RESPONSE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN WOMEN,
MS PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA

29 August 2017

(Check against delivery)

Madam President, Madam Executive Director,

Thank you for your statement today, which sets out the path ahead for UN Women, including the new Strategic Plan for 2018-21. I would also like to thank you for the consultative approach taken in the development of the plan.

The Strategic Plan offers an opportunity to help make the implementation of the 2030 Agenda a reality. Through UN Women's unique role and comparative advantage in the UN development system, action must be taken to realise Goal 5: only by mobilising and working through others can results be taken to scale, to ensure that women and girls have the same opportunities, the same life chances, the same access to education, health, economic and political participation as men and boys. And we urge UN Women to ensure that the coordination and normative elements of their mandate, are sufficiently prioritised and resourced, as they implement the plan over the next four years.

It is important that we now look ahead to ensure this Plan is implemented effectively. UN Women must be nimble and responsive to the Secretary-General's report on reform. The inclusion of a Common Chapter across all four of the agencies' Strategic Plans is a welcome signal that a step change is needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda and to deliver for everyone. We must ensure we prioritise actions designed to leave no one behind, and which support the most vulnerable. In that context we must be ambitious in order to deliver benefits across the UN Development System through genuine collaboration. Executive Boards

should receive regular updates on progress and results achieved through joint working as described in the Common Chapter.

The UK strongly supports the UN reform agenda and welcomes the vision that the Secretary General set out in his first report in June. We look forward to further discussion with Member States and to working with you, Executive Director, and the other Agencies, to make this vision a reality.

We want to see a strong UN, that has strengthened accountability, delivers value for money and transparency, and which attracts greater popular support. We believe this can be achieved by focusing on four specific issues:

Firstly, Leadership – We look forward to UN Women working closely with the Secretary General to amplify the impact of coordination activities across the UN.

Efficiency – We believe UN Women’s coordination role and normative lead on gender equality, within the UN, is critical in strengthening impact and results, and improving efficiency of other agencies across the system.

Accountability – this is vital. The UN SWAP presents a critical opportunity for UN Women to improve results and accountability on gender equality across the UN.

Performance – We hope UN Women will live up to the 2030 Agenda commitment to prioritise those furthest behind – in least developed countries, in fragile and conflict affected states and the most marginalised within other countries.

These reform priorities are rooted in the outcomes of the QCPR, and are all identified as priorities in the Secretary-General's recent report on Reform.

Finally, the UK would like to thank UN Women, for its work leading on this critical agenda, and helping to achieve equality for women globally.

Thank you /Madam President, Madam Executive Director.

ENDS