Statement by the President of the Executive Board H.E. Ambassador KIM Sook
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
Opening Statement
Second Regular Session of 2012
Executive Board of UN Women

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New York

Distinguished delegates, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2012 second regular session of the UN-Women Executive Board.

Please allow me to also acknowledge and welcome the distinguished Under-Secretary-General/Executive director of UN-Women, Madam Michelle Bachelet, is present with us this morning.

Two years ago, UN Women was established with the great expectations of the international community. While the tasks before UN Women seemed to be a daunting challenge at that time, the world today both recognizes and commends what UN Women has achieved for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Without the excellent leadership of Madame Bachelet, it would not have been possible for UN Women to transform itself into a strong, dynamic organization with clear goals and strategies. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for her commitment and dedication to UN Women.

With its normative and operational activities, UN Women is accomplishing meaningful impact on the ground. It is also important achievement that as a result of Rio+20 summit meeting last June, the awareness of the world leaders and international community on the significance of integrating and mainstreaming gender equality and the women’s empowerment in sustainable development had been raised.
This second regular session of the Executive Board is significant for the solid foundation and continued progress of UN Women. This session has a valuable opportunity not only to evaluate the progress we made since the annual session of last June, but also to discuss the way for UN Women to move forward.

During the session, we will reach a final decision of the regional architecture. Through its decentralized design, the regional architecture will allow UN-Women to act more quickly on the ground where action is needed most. We will also review and approve evaluation policy and decisions on the financial and budgetary matters.

From the aspect of enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of UN Women, this second regular session is the first PaperSmart session ever of the UN Women Executive Board. I am delighted UN Women adopted this innovative way of working, in compliance with the Secretary-General's overall guidance for a greener U.N. system. It will guarantee an improved data management system of all official documents and the proceedings of the Executive Board.

This session marks the end of the second year of operationalization of UN Women. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure a productive and successful result.