Mr. President,

Members of the Executive Board,

I am pleased to be delivering this statement of behalf of Australia, Canada, Luxemburg, New Zealand, the United States and my own country the Netherlands.

We would like to thank the administrator for the report on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy in 2013 and the UNDP gender equality strategy for the period 2014 - 2017.

Gender equality and women’s rights and empowerment are cornerstones for human development and as stated in UNDP’s Strategic Plan, gender equality is critical to achieving progress on poverty reduction and sustainable development. We attach great importance to effective mainstreaming of gender in UNDP's activities and organisation.

Allow me to make some comments on the documents before us.

First on the report on the implementation of the current gender equality strategy.

We appreciate the work of UNDP, together with other UN agencies to ensure gender equality is a key feature of discussions in the post-2015 development agenda. Inclusion, participation and gender equality are not only rights but are also indispensable for sustainable development and economic growth.
We also would like to commend UNDP for its results in the four focus areas of the current strategic plan. UNDP is particularly well placed to support national capacity and policies that foster gender equality in MDG achievement and development. We are pleased to see good results of your support in these areas. We also note promising developments in promoting women's political participation, as voters as well as candidates, and in mainstreaming gender into UNDP's crisis prevention and recovery focus area. We welcome UNDP's cooperation in these areas with partners like UN Women, the World Bank and the European Union.

We appreciate UNDP's efforts to deepen accountability for gender equality results in the institution and value the contribution of the Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and instruments like the gender marker. The development of the gender marker guidance note, co-lead by UNDP and UNICEF is an important achievement. It will guide the development of an effective, coherent approach within the UN system for tracking resources that support results on gender equality and women's and girls empowerment.

It is encouraging that 32 field offices have applied for the Gender Equality Seal and we look forward to the outcomes of their gender equality certification process. We encourage UNDP to continue to empower staff on not only how to conduct a comprehensive gender analysis but also how to assess whether programs have indeed met the needs of affected women, men, girls and boys.


We support the continuation of gender mainstreaming efforts through the Gender Steering and Implementation Committee, the application of the gender marker and of the Gender Equality Seal.

We thank you for the information provided on financial and human resources and are pleased to see that UNDP will be able to count on 70 senior gender advisors. We are pleased to see that, in line with the UN SWAP the financial benchmark for resource allocation for gender equality and women's empowerment will be established at 15% of the organisations resources and at least 15% of UNDP's funding in peace building contexts will be allocated to address women's specific needs and gender equality. We note that all global, regional and country programmes
will set aside resources for ensuring the gender equality results are met. In total UNDP projects to invest $62 million of regular resources and $520 million of other resources in promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. These are clear targets and numbers. We encourage UNDP to aim to reach and even exceed these goals.

We agree that UNDP should report directly against the indicators in the Strategic Plan. We would also encourage UNDP to provide in future reports information on the outcomes of its UN-SWAP (Sector Wide Action Plan) assessment. We understand that a baseline assessment was conducted in 2013, which included UNDP, and we would be very interested in having more detail on the result of that and subsequent assessments shared with the Executive Board.

Finally, UNDP’s efforts in the area of gender equality have linkages with many other UN agencies, in particular UN Women. We are pleased to see that UNDP recognizes the importance of good cooperation and partnering with agencies like UN Women and strives for complimentarity through the utilisation of own and distinct entry points for their work.

Thank you.