Madam President, Executive Director, distinguished delegates,

I thank the Executive Director for her comprehensive statement.

Friends, this March Ireland stepped down as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women after two years at the helm, handing over to the capable stewardship of Armenia.

In that role, we had the privilege of working closely with the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director and their team in New York. We saw with our own eyes the hard work, commitment and indeed passion of the UN Women team to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls – from the leadership level right down through the ranks. By providing the policy inputs, logistical support and political leadership, you create the
enabling environment for us Member States to break new ground for the rights of women and girls. A heartfelt thanks from us for this essential work and for all your support to the CSW Bureau.

We acknowledge that it can sometimes be difficult for an organisation whose chief function is normative to quantify the progress it makes. That doesn’t make it any less important. At a time of worrying questioning of gender equality, Ireland underlines its full support for the contribution of UN Women to ensuring that the global normative frameworks on gender equality are protected and advanced. Earlier this year Ireland published its new international development policy, “A Better World”, and we are proud to have gender equality as one of its four central pillars.

We commend and wish you well in the process of change management underway. As you review your country presence and prepare to engage with the development of new Cooperation Frameworks, we take the opportunity to emphasise the value of partnerships to maximise coherence, in line with the spirit of the reform of the UN Development System. And we count on you to be the watchdog in making sure that the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across the UN is meaningful and deep.

We welcome the steps taken to improve the workplace environment and we encourage a continued focus on these efforts. We expect the highest standards from UN Women in terms of zero-tolerance for harassment and abuse of authority.
As a consistent and regular donor of core funding, Ireland wishes to reiterate the indispensable nature of regular resources for UN Women and the wider UN development system.

Finally, as we approach the landmark year of 2020, during which we will mark 25 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years of Security Council resolution 1325, and the 10th birthday of UN Women, we thank UN Women for the impact it has made in its ten short years. We hope that in its teen years, like any good teenager, UN Women will continue to push boundaries, challenge the status quo, and seek to change the world for the better. Ireland will be with you in that work.

ENDS