Thank you Madame President and Madame Executive Director.

All moments in our history are critical for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment. But the next year or so strikes us as particularly important.

We look towards major milestones in 2020, including the 20th anniversary of UNSC resolution 1325 and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.

We support UN Women’s continuing leadership across the UN system at this critical time.

And we look forward to working closely with UN Women and other member states as we use these anniversaries and this momentum to reflect on progress, and to identify where we need to accelerate commitment and action.

We congratulate UN Women on its performance against the 2018 Strategic Plan milestones, with most targets met, and many exceeded. We encourage UN Women to continuously reflect on
lessons learned, and to ensure it is reporting on those areas where performance is lagging, including in the mid-term review of the Plan.

We note the ambitious budget target and reiterate the need for a robust and innovative resource mobilisation strategy, and clear prioritisation.

Australia welcomes UN Women’s efforts on preventing and addressing sexual harassment. The measures outlined in the annual report, including the appointment of an Executive Coordinator on Addressing Sexual Harassment, revised internal policies and the development of the UN System Model Policy on Sexual Harassment, demonstrate UN Women’s leadership on this issue and we encourage a continued focus on this throughout the organisation.

Australia welcomes UN Women’s focus on leaving no one behind by addressing the needs of women and girls who face multiple and intersecting discrimination, including women and girls with disabilities, and LGBTI people.

We applaud the commitment to further enhance the collection of data disaggregated by age, sex, migratory status, disability and urban or rural location to better inform the planning and monitoring of interventions and would welcome an update on the progress and gaps in these efforts.

Australia will continue to champion UN Women’s role in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment around the world and across the UN system, including in the context of the rollout of the UNDS reform.

Madame President, Madame Executive Director, thank you.