UN Women Annual Session 2019: Canada’s National Statement

Madam/Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking UN Women for all of your support throughout Women Deliver held last week in Vancouver, particularly the facilitation of the Sexual and Gender-based Violence round-table by Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Beijing 25 marks another key milestone in our efforts to speed up the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to meet the goals of Agenda 2030 and we look forward to hearing more about expected events.

We welcome UN Women’s performance in the first year of implementing the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of UN Women’s oversight mechanisms. The Executive Director’s report provides a solid evidence and results-based management narrative. More on the linkage of outputs to outcomes would strengthen the performance story being told.

Canada recognizes the 2018 transition period for the merged Independent Evaluation and Audit Service (IEAS). In line with the Audit Advisory Report, the office is on track. Most Key Performance Indicators for the evaluation function remain positive, recognizing that challenges
remain within centralized and decentralized context. Our concern is the impact that these challenges have on the quality of evaluations, notably the lack of evidence and lessons learned to inform decision-making and organizational learning, and on evaluation coverage.

Concerning audit, Canada is encouraged that IEAS recognized the need to extend its audit coverage to include function and business process areas. We welcome the allocation of adequate funding which meant that the internal audit service could carry out its 2018 transitional audit plan to fulfil its mandate. We note the need for an additional resource for the IEAS Director to appropriately support tasks related to investigation and ask that UN Women management seriously consider this request.

On UNDS reform, we reiterate the unique opportunity presented to UN Women to help integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women in all of the work of the UN. This is particularly important at the country-level, through the CCA and UNSDCF processes and by working in partnership with resident coordinators, UN country teams, national governments and your sister agencies. Tools such as the UN SWOP 2.0 and the UN Country Score Cards have never been more relevant to support and track these efforts. The UN Development
System needs your leadership and strong engagement. We are counting on you to deliver.

Thank you.