STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING

THE

ANNUAL SESSION OF THE UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE BOARD

ON

ITEM 2: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ON

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UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Please check against delivery
Madam President,

I thank you for giving me the floor. As it is my first time taking floor, I wish to commend you for your able steering of the work of the Executive Board. My delegation assures you of our continued support.

I also wish to thank Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director of UN Women, for her insightful statement and her leadership of the Entity. We congratulate Anita Bhatia and Hanna Kristjansdottir on their respective appointments. Kenya is also pleased to learn of UN Women’s active engagement with UN system partners in order to increase partnerships for more efficient and effective delivery of programmes. We are encouraged by the Entity’s efforts to ensure a gender perspective in the work being carried out by UN country teams.

My delegation is pleased to be speaking at this year’s annual session. We commend UN Women on a successful first year of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Last month during the Executive Board’s field visit to the Caribbean region, I had the privilege of witnessing some of this success in areas related to the various outcomes of the Strategic plan. The impact of UN Women on the lives of women and girls on the ground is undeniable and certainly commendable.

Madam President,

Kenya welcomes the good performance of UN Women as is evidenced by the achievement of almost all 2018 milestones particularly on the fifth outcome where all the milestones were achieved or exceeded. As one of the 107 countries receiving support from the Entity, Kenya appreciates our continued partnership with UN Women in promoting national gender priorities. We are pleased to share a few areas of success in 2018 which resulted from this partnership, namely:

1. The National Policy on Gender and Development was finalized and is awaiting approval by the Cabinet;
2. The Strategic Plan (2018-2022) for the State Department for Gender was developed providing a basis for gender programming in Kenya and a framework for engaging other partners on the gender agenda;
3. The Intergovernmental Framework on Gender was finalised. This is a critical instrument that is facilitating engagement between National and County Governments on gender initiatives at the grassroots;

4. Kenya received the promised technical and operational support in assessing and reporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In addition, the ongoing support in developing the second iteration of Kenya’s Action Plan is much appreciated and very helpful;

5. The Government of Kenya and UN joint programme on ending gender-based violence is operational now;

6. The initiatives to enhance women’s leadership, including the development of a curriculum has been institutionalized at the Kenya school of Government and support work aimed at implementing Kenya’s Constitutional provisions of enhancing representation of women in appointive and elective positions is ongoing;

7. The Gender Sector Working Group was reconstituted and the four task forces that are supporting gender work in the country, namely in the areas of: women in leadership, socio-economic empowerment, peace and security as well as gender based violence, are operational;

8. And lastly, the promotion of gender statistics through the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics has been achieved.

Madam President,

Please allow me to highlight some challenges and concerns. We note that the third outcome in the Strategic Plan on women’s income security, decent work and economic autonomy did not meet its planned milestones for four indicators, making it the outcome with the lowest performance. This is an important outcome because it contributes to the achievement of at least 13 Sustainable Development Goals. If this trend continues we will not be able to achieve more than 75% of the SDGs by 2030. We call on UN Women to focus on lessons learned in the first year of implementation in order to improve performance in this area in 2019.
Madam President,

As we approach Beijing+25 in 2020, my delegation would also like to thank UN Women for its invaluable guidance in appraising Kenya’s implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The technical and financial support provided has ensured extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders in order to enrich the process in Kenya. Kenya is very proud to be the second African country to have submitted our national report.

Madam President,

I would like to end by reiterating that the Government of Kenya remains committed to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

It is my great pleasure to inform that we will be hosting the 12th Commonwealth Women Affairs Ministers meeting from the 17th – 20th September 2019 in Nairobi under the theme, ‘From Commitment to Action: Accelerating Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment for Sustainable Development’. We look forward to fruitful discussions on how to: increase leadership positions for women in private and public sectors; ensure political engagement at all levels; guarantee economic and entrepreneurial opportunities and; make more strides toward creating a world where gender equality is truly a reality.

Finally, Kenya is also proud to convene the ICPD+25 summit together with the Government of Denmark and UNFPA. ICPF+25 will take place in Nairobi from November 12-14, 2019.

On behalf of Kenya, I take this opportunity to warmly invite you and look forward to welcoming you to Nairobi in September and November, 2019.

I thank you.