German Statement

at the

2019 Annual Session of the
UN Women Executive Board

18 June 2019

(Check against delivery!)
Madam President,

Madam Executive Director of UN Women,

Germany commends the Executive Director and the entire staff of UN Women for their committed work and the progress UN Women has made on delivering on its mandate as outlined in the annual report 2018. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms Anita Bhatia as the new Deputy Executive Director. We look forward to close and productive cooperation with her.

In our view, the annual report shows sound results, even though there still remains room for improvement, with 75 per cent of all Strategic Plan indicators having reached their expected milestone. With regard to programme expenditure in 2018, Germany especially welcomes that geographically the highest share continued to be allocated to sub-Saharan Africa, and encourages UN Women to continue this practice.

Let me briefly outline a few issues which we would like to address:

- First of all, Germany appreciates that UN Women is working on a new country typology, responding to one of the major recommendations from the recent MOPAN assessment on UN Women. We expect UN Women to soon provide proposals on the country typology as well as on the Headquarters functional review and the change management process, and we ask UN Women to ensure transparent and consultative involvement of its Executive Board.

- Secondly, we commend UN Women’s efforts and ambitions with regard to implementing the reform of the UN development system. Germany would be very interested to learn how UN Women will implement the Funding Compact. With regard to UNDS reform, we expect UN Women to re-allocate funds for the increased share of the cost-sharing formula, primarily by realizing efficiency gains.

- Germany also commends UN Women for receiving its seventh unqualified audit opinion.
- Last but not least, we once again would like to ask UN Women’s leadership to continue to brief the Executive Board on further assessments and steps taken concerning the allegations around working environment and the well-being of staff in a detailed and transparent manner.

Enhancing the rights of women and girls and fostering gender equality remains one of the top priorities of German policymaking. We are using our current membership of the Security Council to advance the implementation and further development of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. During Germany’s presidency in April, we hosted the annual open debate on sexual violence in conflicts. In this context, Resolution 2467 was adopted, which strengthens the accountability of parties to armed conflict regarding sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Furthermore, at the first international thematic pledging conference on SGBV in fragile contexts in Oslo last month, the German government made the commitment to provide an additional 80 million euros in 2019 and 2020 for projects aimed at ending SGBV.

In conclusion, I would once more like to underline that we are looking forward to continuing our strong cooperation with UN Women.

Thank you, Madam President.