Statement H.E. Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, at the UN-Women Annual Session

(New York, 18 June 2019)

Madam President,

First, my delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation to you, Madam President, and through you to the entire team, for your excellent work in the Executive Board of UN-Women. I also thank Executive Director H. E. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka for her leadership and for her and her team's continued commitment to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls around the world.

Madam President,

I would like to congratulate UN-Women for its detailed 2018 annual report of the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

I commend UN-Women for achieving eighty-six percent of development results milestones set for the first year of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021. I am confident that the UN-Women will strive to maintain this achievement in the remaining years of the Plan.

UN-Women’s active engagement in the repositioning of the United Nations Development System will contribute to gender responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, it is important to extend continued cooperation to Member States in strengthening and applying global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Madam President,

There is a leading role of UN-Women in preventing and addressing sexual harassment, in collaboration with the UN Office of Human Resources Management as co-chairs of working group to support the development of UN System Model Policy on Sexual Harassment. It is highly commendable to see the launching of policy
related to sexual harassment, and development and dissemination of a guide on Sexual Misconduct to provide guidance on existing policies and procedures.

I also appreciate UN-Women on its transition to the second generation of the System-wide Action Plan for Mainstreaming Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 2.0). My delegation encourages UN-Women to play its constructive role in accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls within the UN system.

Madam President,

While acknowledging the improved transparency by reaching the 6th position on the 2018 Aid Transparency Index among 22 UN agencies, my delegation further encourages UN-Women to continue its efforts for improving accountability, and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness.

I am confident that the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action this year will be an opportunity to garner support in advancing women’s participation and leadership in decision-making.

Madam President,

I conclude by appreciating UN-Women’s support to State Parties in reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and issuing a Guidance Note for comprehensive national-level reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Nepal will remain committed to our partnership with UN-Women in implementing gender-responsive policies and governance at the national level, while playing constructive role at the international level.

I thank you.