Statement by the United Arab Emirates
Delivered by Ms. Shahd Matar
before the
UN-Women Executive Board Annual Session
New York, 18 June 2019

Thank you, Madame President,

The UAE is pleased to note the significant results achieved by UN-Women as reflected in the Annual Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021. As a core supporter of UN-Women since its inception, the UAE applauds this progress and continues to stand firm in its commitment to UN-Women as the UN’s leading agency dedicated to achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The UAE was honored to be elected as a top contributing country on the UN-Women’s Executive Board in 2019 and we place great emphasis on supporting the thematic work and assisting UN-Women to execute its mandate.

In the year 2020, we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This marks 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action established the guiding principles to remove the systemic barriers that hinder women from equal participation in all areas of life. In this regard, the UAE taking effective measures at the national level, as well as the international level, in order to promote and advance gender equality.

Madame President,

The Annual Report reflects that women continued to make important strides in politics with several countries achieving gender balance in parliaments and executive cabinets. In the UAE, we prioritize gender equality and the meaningful participation of women at all levels and in all fields, with women holding prominent positions and where half of the seats in the Federal National Council are allocated to women. Earlier this year, the UAE and UN Women launched, a military and peacekeeping training program to strengthen the capacity of Arab women for deployment in peacekeeping operations, which we also plan to expand to beyond our region.

UN-Women’s leveraging of its comparative advantage to strengthen global norms continues to be exemplified through the good work of the UN-Women Liaison Office in Abu Dhabi. This office provides strategic focus on partnership development in the area of policy advice and political advocacy, as well as assisting to advance the status of women in the region and strengthen collaboration on gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
We welcome the launch of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan 2.0 but however note that the overall compliance of the UN system at 58 percent is a setback compared to 2017. We believe that the UN should lead by example when it comes to gender mainstreaming, and therefore encourage Un-Women to accelerate its support to women’s empowerment within the UN system.

Finally, the UAE believes that when women are represented in all aspects of society – as leaders and decision-makers – societies are more stable, prosperous, and tolerant. To that end, we will continue to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are key principles of our international engagement, including by deepening our partnership with UN-Women.

I thank you, Madame President.