Ms President

I make this statement on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, UK, US and my own country Switzerland.

We thank the Independent Evaluation Service (IES) for its annual report, the Evaluation on Governance and National Planning and the corresponding Management Responses. The reports confirm that UN Women has established a high quality independent and impactful evaluation function.

In this intervention we would like to highlight the following points:

First, on performance: we congratulate the IES on the high level of evaluation performance. However, we note the drop in some Key Performance Indicators, particularly the continuing drop in the financial resources invested in evaluation function and quality of evaluation reports. We hope this is a temporary occurrence reflective of the changes and reorganization that took place around the creation of the Independent Evaluation and Audit Service and that the performance will return to its high level and upward trend in 2019 and onward. We nonetheless urge UN Women to pay attention to the five areas recording performance issues in 2018 to ensure they reach their targets by 2021, with a particular focus on the target for financial resources and through strengthening capacity at country level. In this regard we welcome the 2019 programme of work. We further welcome the strong focus on “use of evaluation” and welcome the explicit link to the new Knowledge Management
Strategy. This needs to be implemented at country level and monitored through a strengthened KPI 9. Furthermore, we welcome more impact-oriented evaluations and other measures to further generate evidence and to inform organizational learning and decision-making.

Secondly, on governance: we welcome the planned review of the UN Women Evaluation Policy and encourage UN Women to reflect the (ongoing) internal and external changes and to align and harmonize its policy with those of other Funds and Programmes that have recently been reviewed. We would like to request UN Women to report on the independence (independent functioning) of the IES after the merger with the internal audit unit in the Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS), in the next annual report.

Thirdly, on system-wide and joint work: we commend UN Women’s IES for their work on UN system coordination around the reform agenda and joint and system-wide evaluations. We continue to strongly encourage UN Women, in collaboration with its sister-agencies, to further support independent system-wide evaluation mechanisms, as members of the UNEG as well as under the leadership of the Secretary General. We would like to receive clarification on where this progress stands. Moreover, we are pleased to note that the joint evaluation of the common chapter is now included in the quadrennial budgeted evaluation plan, scheduled for 2019 to 2020/21. We welcome that an inter-agency group under the guidance of the four directors of evaluation has been tasked to this specific evaluation and are looking forward to its result.

We remain committed to supporting the IES in their important role in fostering learning, accountability and evidence-based decision-making and programming on gender equality within UN Women, the UN system and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.