Statement
Executive Board of UN WOMEN – Agenda Item 3
ANNUAL SESSION 2019
Update on the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system
June 19, 2019

[Introduction]

- Thank you President for the floor, I deliver this statement on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Republic of Moldova, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and my own country, the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

- We would like to reiterate our support for the UNDS Reform implementation and welcome the report presented here today.

- We thank UN WOMEN for its continued support to the ongoing reforms and appreciate its decision to second a Gender Specialist to the UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO).

[UNSDCF & MAF]

- We look forward to the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and expect UN WOMEN to align its country program documents to this framework.
• The framework, as well as the work of the UN Country teams, must aim at implementing the 2030 Agenda, which is the overarching objective of the UNDS reform.

• We encourage UN WOMEN to make progress on reviewing their accountability and reporting frameworks to ensure alignment with the new Management and Accountability Framework, including the implementation of matrixed reporting.

[RC appraisal]

• UN WOMEN should, on the basis of its gender equality expertise, always contribute to the performance assessments of Resident Coordinators, also in countries where it is not formally represented in the UN Country Team.

• We understand that Regional Directors of UN Women are not allowed to directly participate in the meetings to appraise Resident Coordinators and Country Teams.

• The reason behind this being that such meetings are limited to Regional Directors of UN entities at D2 level or more senior, while UN Women’s Regional Directors are at D1 level.

• The restriction deprives UN Country Teams from an opportunity to ensure accountability for their work to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and to leverage the expertise and mandate of UN Women to advance these common objectives which are shared across the system.
• We invite members of the Executive Board of UN Women to join us in recommending the UN Development Coordination Office to remove this restriction, as part of the ongoing UN reform.

[levy]

• We welcome UN WOMEN’s doubled cost sharing contribution to support the functioning of the Resident Coordinator system in 2019 and urge UN WOMEN to continue the implementation of this contribution through existing resources, as well as assure the processing of the 1% levy.

[Funding Compact]

• We welcome the Secretary General’s Funding Compact. We look forward to your first report to this Board in September on the specific follow-up to your commitments under the Funding Compact, incorporating efficiency gains and their redeployment for programming including coordination.

• The Funding Compact includes the commitment to triple the number of UN Country Teams that have conducted a gender scorecard exercise and met or exceeded at least half of the gender performance indicators. How will UN WOMEN support UN Country Teams to comply with this requirement?

[Partnerships]

• We appreciate the ED’s work in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Strategic Results Group on Partnerships to address the need to track and assure adequate financing for gender equality work and gender mainstreaming.
• We recall the Secretary-General’s proposal to develop clear system-wide guidance and principles on working in partnerships.

• We ask UN WOMEN to support this effort and to present to the Board proposals on how to establish collaboration in partnership as the basic organizing principle for its engagement.

[Conclusion]

• Mme/Mr President,

We appreciate UN WOMEN staff’s engagement at all levels to help implement the reform, and management’s support to encourage institutional and culture change. The empowerment of women and girls is key to ensure no one is left behind.

• We will keep on working with UN WOMEN to deliver on the commitments made in the Strategic Plan and deliver results in the new Cooperation Frameworks in support of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.