Madam President, Executive Director,

Thank you for your report and for the dedication of the entire staff.

First of all, I would like to welcome the new Deputy Executive Director Ms. Bhatia – we look forward to cooperating with you.

President, as we take stock on a complicated global situation on human rights and the empowerment of women and girls, I am particularly proud to speak on behalf of Sweden’s feminist government, and as the largest donor to UN Women. We are pleased to take note of the many accomplishments of UN Women to date. We want to commend you, for your rights-based, normative work, both at global and country-level. We applaud your enhanced focus on youth and on leaving no one behind, as well as your constructive engagement in the reform of the UN system.

As noted in the recent MOPAN assessment, UN Women has a strong strategic vision and contributes with deep knowledge and expertise.

In this respect, we also welcome UN Women’s instrumental role in improving UN system-wide efforts in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment. We expect of course UN Women to lead by example in its own organization.

The MOPAN assessment further identifies some challenges: the sustainability of results and their efficient delivery, as well as attention paid to environment and climate change. We believe it is paramount for UN Women to articulate ambitious and realistic action plans to overcome these challenges, some of which are recurring. The change management process is needed to strengthen UN Women’s capacity at country level and to leverage on its mandate across the UNDS and we look forward to further updates. Therefore, we also wish to see UN Women operating under a new budget, in line with the principles of the Funding Compact. The structured financing dialogues, as important elements of the Funding Compact, aim to ensure a fully financed budget across all thematic areas and functions of the organization.
An equally important part of the dialogue is how resources are allocated in accordance with strategic priorities. Our commitment is to provide multi-year core funding and we encourage others to do the same to ensure predictability and flexibility.

Madam president,

As a former member of the Security Council, Sweden takes great pride in having contributed to advancing the Women Peace and Security agenda. Today, 75 percent of all resolutions, or other key Security Council documents, include references to Women, Peace and Security. In addition; 31 investigators have been seconded to 12 countries in conflict to provide better access to justice for victims of sexual violence. More female briefers and constant reminders to listen to women’s voices and to include them at the tables were peace is negotiated and implemented.

Let me end by thanking UN Women for excellent cooperation at the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality in 2018, followed up by the Tunis Forum this year. We look forward to next year’s Global Forum and stand ready to engage with you, France and Mexico and encourage others to do the same.

Thank you.