Check against delivery

Madam President,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Belgium, Canada, Finland, Iceland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and my own country Sweden.

We note the ambitious increase in budget estimates, which exceed the current budget for the period 2018-2019. A budget that was not fully financed last year; in spite of record revenues.

As major supporters of UN Women, we share your desire to reach the budget target of 500 million USD per annum, as was envisioned by the Secretary-General when UN Women was established. Yet, we also share the view of the Audit Advisory Committee, that realistic targets and goals for resource mobilization are particularly important.

We want to believe that the budget estimates could stand a chance to be achieved. This could only happen if UN Women adheres to the principles of the Funding Compact, and engages in a strategic structured dialogue with Member States and other donors. The purpose of the dialogues is to identify the gaps of needs in relation to the funding that UN Women receives, to ensure full and effective financing of the budget that the board has approved and to deliver on the implementation of UN Women’s strategic plan 2018-2021.
Furthermore, in order to close the persisting funding gap, we encourage UN Women to continue engaging also new partners in the structured financing dialogue and to diversify its funding resources.

Table 1, 3 and annex I in the Integrated Budget estimates, should be the basis of UN Women’s structured dialogue on financing. They clearly show the necessity for regular resources, which are key to financing UN Women’s core functions, including your important coordination function. We think it is one of UN Women’s comparative advantages, paramount in delivering on UN Women’s triple mandate in the ongoing UNDS reform. It is also necessary to meet the growing demands from the rest of the UN system in implementing Agenda 2030. The recent MOPAN assessment, and our own assessments of UN Women, have identified that the coordination function clearly needs further strengthening, particularly at country-level.

It is therefore with some concern that we note the imbalance in targets for Regular Resources and Other Resources in the proposed budget.

Now, let me turn to some specific questions:

- Is the contribution that UN Women receives from the Regular Budget appropriate for UN Women to fulfill its mandate with regard to normative intergovernmental processes, or do you see the need to request further funding from the Regular Budget? What could we as Member States do to assist UN Women in this regard?
We note that the total resources estimated for 2020-2021 exceed the expected use of resources for the same period. Could you please explain why and the expected implications?

To summarize, we see today’s session as part of the structured dialogue on financing, and thank UN Women for this opportunity to discuss the draft integrated budget estimates. We look forward to further engaging in this dialogue with you and other donors to achieve full financing of the budget and secure delivery of the UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

Thank you.