Statement by H.E. Ambassador Choong-hee Hahn
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
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Agenda item 2: Strategic Plan

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Thank you, Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to thank Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, for her comprehensive presentation on the progress made in implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2013, for the year 2013. I would also like to congratulate her and the whole staff of UN Women on the impressive results that UN Women delivered last year. Their strategic and comprehensive efforts have indeed advanced gender equality and the empowerment of women in terms of human rights, development, as well as peace and security.

UN Women's leadership in the elaboration and adoption of the two consecutive 'Agreed Conclusions' at the 57th and 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women is highly commendable. Considering that its regional architecture was still rolling out, it is also noteworthy that UN Women delivered about $133 million in country programmes last year. We note with satisfaction that UN Women's normative and coordination roles in the UN System are now well supported and praised by its peer UN entities.

Building upon its substantial achievement during its three-year-establishment-period, UN Women is at a critical and strategic moment not only in its organizational aspects but also in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment. In this regard, UN Women should make every effort to scale up the leveraging of its normative, operational and coordination roles in accordance with the Strategic Plan 2014-2017.
Firstly, when it comes to its normative role, my delegation would like to encourage UN Women to expand its engagement in intensifying global norms to prevent and eradicate sexual violence against women in conflicts. We commend UN Women's contribution to strengthening the language in Security Council Resolution 2122 last year. Our commitment to eradicate sexual violence against women and end impunity should lead to a stronger norm and unequivocal action. In this regard, we note with appreciation that the Government of the United Kingdom held the first summit last week on this specific issue.

It goes without saying that UN Women's leadership and expertise are indispensable in the creation of the Post-2015 development agenda. In order to include gender equality and women's empowerment not only as a stand-alone goal but also as a cross-cutting issue, proper indicators should be disaggregated by age and sex. We would appreciate UN Women's input and recommendations to identify priority areas to reflect gender in the new global development agenda.

The ongoing appraisal and review process of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Action Platform on the occasion of the 20th anniversary (Beijing+20) cannot be emphasized enough in terms of leveraging gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women can count on our support for its leadership in this process to reaffirm our shared commitment.

Secondly, in relation to the operational mandate of UN Women, my delegation would like to call upon UN Women to continue to improve its business model to fill the gap between policy and practice. The culture of a field-oriented approach, results-based management and evidence-based reporting should fit into all its work both at headquarters and at the field offices.

The regional architecture should be fortified in parallel with strengthening the capacity of national machineries and field officers. Also, we would like to recommend that UN Women take advantage of strategic partnerships and outsourcing in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes in order to maximize its effect while reducing its cost.

Lastly, my delegation would like to encourage UN Women to keep active in exercising its coordination role in the UN System at both the country level and headquarters level. Good coordination is not easy as it requires not only technical coherence but also political convergence among different stakeholders. We encourage UN Women to come up with a win-win strategy and programmes that better engage other UN agencies to be accountable for gender mainstreaming.

While there is substantial progress in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, there remains much to be done for its full compliance. We look forward to UN Women's leadership in this regard, as well. Thank you.