Mr. President, Madame Executive Director

Iceland would like to thank the Executive Director, Madame Phumzile, and her team for interesting and informative reports presented to the Executive Board during this meeting.

During its first three years of existence, UN Women has grown rapidly in spite of limited funds. We recognize with appreciation the tremendous amount of work that UN Women has accomplished in regards to organisational development and delivering its mandate.

I am proud to be able to say that UN Women is one of four key partners in Iceland’s multilateral development cooperation. That reflects our heavy emphasis on gender equality and women’s empowerment – and also our faith in UN Women’s work.

Since the establishment of UN Women, Iceland’s core and non core contribution to the entity has grown nearly 38%. In 2013, UN Women was the largest recipient of Iceland’s contribution to UN Agencies.

This year, Iceland unfortunately had to make cutbacks in its ODA, but as strong supporters of UN Women, our core contribution to UN Women was safeguarded. I can also assure you that our intention is to continue to increase our funding, as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to use the opportunity to especially mention UN Women’s work in regards to the commemoration of Beijing+20. In 2013 and 2014, Iceland was happy to contribute to the Beijing+20 campaign as we felt it was an appropriate way to commemorate Beijing, the achievements since and our continued commitment to realize the promise of Beijing. We hope other Member States will join us in celebrating Beijing and will consider supporting the campaign.

Thank you.