Mr/Madam President

I am pleased to give this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries: Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and my own country Finland.

I would like to start by thanking Madam Executive Director for her strong words. I would also like to thank for the presentation of the meta-analysis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UN Women was established to lead the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women – and this work is needed now more than ever. Current devastating emergencies such as the Ebola crises as well as conflicts and instability affect women disproportionately. Women make up the majority of now unprecedentedly high numbers of displaced persons world wide. Violence against women remains one of the most widespread human rights violations of our time. Even when women can be the solution they still remain under-represented in leadership and decision making positions.

Deeply embedded discrimination against women is not only a human rights violation but it also hampers development and stands in the way of sustainable peace.

As Madam Executive Director has rightly said many times, realizing gender equality is however not a mission impossible. To end violence against women, to fully realize gender equality and to ensure women’s leadership and full participation in all levels and contexts, we need a clear gender perspective and we need to work together.

We need strong UN Women to lead the way and we need all of us on board to ensure it.

Firstly, UN Women cannot deliver on its very important mandate without sufficient funding. Core funding is the key to enhance the ability of UN Women at all levels to work efficiently and effectively and demonstrate strong results on the ground.
Secondly, UN Women cannot - and should not - do this work alone. All UN agencies, funds and programs need to be fully engaged. UN system-wide coordination is a unique mandate of UN-Women and crucial in this regard.

Gender equality needs to be understood as cross-cutting in all activities. The presented meta-analysis implicates however, that the joint working modality has not been fully understood and the costs have sometimes been high in relation to results. The “Delivering as One” approach needs to take women’s empowerment beyond gender focal points. More mainstreaming efforts are therefore needed by the executive boards of the funds and programmes.

We also fully agree with the recommendation which calls for a greater inclusion of men - in their roles as family members, life-partners, peer-to-peer educators and power holders.

Mr/Madam President,

We are pleased to once again say that UN Women is clearly delivering its mandate and we are convinced that regardless of the financial and other constraints, the UN Women staff is doing their utmost to achieve results.

For example, the presented analysis shows that UN-Women’s programmes have been largely successful in delivering planned activities and outputs. For this we extend our warmest thanks to the dedicated management and staff throughout the organization and especially on the ground.

In addition, we are glad to hear that the improvement of knowledge management systems is a priority. While we commend the efforts, we encourage UN Women to strengthen its overall knowledge management systems, particularly related to operational experiences and lessons learned.

Also, the culture of results needs to be incorporated and further strengthened throughout the entire organization, particularly at the country level. We welcome the measures that have taken place but the importance of further improvements in Result Based Management cannot be over emphasized.

Finally, we also commend UN Women for their humanitarian work. Strategic and focused work on gender equality in humanitarian action is clearly needed.

Mr/Madam President,

Let me once again reiterate the full commitment of the Nordic Countries to the work of UN Women. We will continue to take bold steps forward with UN Women to make sure that realizing gender equality is indeed a Mission Possible.

Thank you.