BRAZIL

UN-Women Executive Board
Second Regular Session 2014

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota
Permanent Representative

15 September 2014

(Check against delivery)
Mr. President, Mme. Executive Director,

Brazil welcomes the statement made by Under-Secretary General and UN-Women Executive Director, Madam Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. Let me also thank the UN-Women Secretariat for organizing this Annual Session.

This session takes place at a promising moment, when we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and prepare for the final stages of an ambitious, universal and transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda, on the basis of the outcome document of the OWG on the SDGs. As we intensify our efforts towards achieving the MDGs, while transitioning to an even more ambitious agenda, we are faced with yet another opportunity to place women's rights at the center of our efforts, internationally and nationally.

Mr. President,

Brazil strongly supported the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment goals in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the General Assembly last week. We are pleased to note that the outcome document on the SDGs represents a step forward in our collective efforts to develop strategies specifically targeted for women. As we pointed out during the Annual session, Brazil considers that the pursuit of women's rights should be based not only on general policies of universal reach, but also on measures that are specific to women as a group subject to different vulnerable situations.

In that regard, we would like to once again thank UN-Women for their active engagement as part of the UN Technical Supporting Team of the SDGs Open Working Group as well as their invaluable contribution towards further strengthening the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment.

In the context of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, we commend UN Women for carrying out a comprehensive study on the progress made and challenges remaining of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at national, regional and global levels, in line with the mandate given by ECOSOC.

We look forward to the results of this assessment, which will provide an invaluable contribution for CSW 59 to conduct a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as a point of reference for the realization of women's rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. While learning from the past, it is important that we strengthen our commitments for the future by consolidating and building on what has been achieved so far.
Mr. President,

Brazil is committed to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. In recent years, the Brazilian Government has made significant strides in income distribution, giving priority to women and children. Women are now the main beneficiaries of cash transfer programs and housing credit, an approach that has been validated by studies which indicated women make better use of resources. As a result, the positive effects of the programs themselves were enhanced.

However, this progress has not yet fully translated into a life without violence for women and girls. Brazilian data on violence against women and girls in recent years have shown there have been improvements, though levels remain unacceptably high, notwithstanding the significant gains of the recent years in the overall economic situation of the population. This demonstrates that violence against women is also culturally embedded and requires a comprehensive multidimensional response. The Brazilian government is aware of these challenges and continues to look for better solutions for women to have their rights fully respected.

Brazil has adopted specific legislation and policies for combating violence against women, such as the "Maria da Penha Law", which improves judicial procedures and provides a network of service in assistance to victims. Another successful initiative has been the establishment of a public utility hotline service to provide assistance and guidance to women victims of violence, including shelters for women and their children as well as adequate support for them to rebuild their lives under better and safer conditions.

We recognize, however, that gender inequality is a persistent problem globally and Brazil is no exception. We have to address it by combating gender-based violence and advancing the rights of women and girls including within the most vulnerable groups.

We are pleased to note the recent signing of a cooperation agreement between the Brazilian Secretariat of Policies for Women, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and UN Women. The Agreement provides the legal framework for UN Women to engage in and support the implementation of the Brazilian National Plan of Policies for Women.

We are certain that under this new agreement the guidance and support offered by UN-Women to Brazilian gender-based policies will be further strengthened.
Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm our continued support to UN-Women and its efforts in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In our view, UN-Women has a critical role in facilitating the exchange of good practices that could help us learn from each other's successes and collectively promote the advancement of women's rights. The report on the meta-analysis of evaluations in 2013, their conclusions on the need to improve data effectiveness and the respective responses of management are steps in the right direction. You can count on Brazil's full engagement and support. I wish UN-Women all the success in this endeavor, and for all of us a productive session.

Thank you.