Mr. President, Madame Executive Director, Distinguished Delegates,

We thank the Executive Director and our Board President for their opening statements. The United States strongly supports UN Women’s strategic priorities and welcomes its accomplishments to date.

UN Women’s leadership within the UN system is beginning to produce impressive outcomes. We especially welcome UN Women’s leadership and advocacy on the importance of women’s and girls’ empowerment and gender equality as central to our shared development goals, especially as we continue deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda.

We are very pleased by the initial results of the System Wide Action Plan, which seeks to introduce a gender perspective into all UN political programs. We are heartened by the reports of substantial improvement in the performance of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming through this plan. According to reports, in just its second year of effective implementation, advancements occurred in 14 of the 15 performance indicators, including notable steps forward in gender-responsive auditing, performance management, program review and knowledge generation.

We are satisfied to note UN Women’s increasing engagement in humanitarian activities, including the training of field advisors and we would like to see UN Women’s valuable contributions to the Secretary General’s humanitarian situation reports continue. We welcome the gender study that UN Women is conducting for the humanitarian segment of ECOSOC and are pleased it is also collaborating with women’s groups and civil society on the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit. The United States supports UN Women’s inclusion as a “Standing Invitee” to Inter-Agency Standing Committee meetings based on UN Women’s significant and increasing humanitarian activities. We believe that an increasingly closer partnership between the two will enhance the efforts of both organizations.

We commend UN Women’s continuing dedication to ending gender-based violence. We are proud to be supporting UN Women’s projects to address such violence in Mozambique and Tanzania, as well as through the Safe Cities Initiative in India, with two significant voluntary contributions. We look forward to the results of the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security.
UN Women’s work to advance the status of indigenous women and girls is another area we would like to highlight. We welcome contributions to the planning for next week’s World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and look forward to the high-level side event it is hosting at the International Forum on Indigenous Women.

We welcome UN Women’s ongoing collaboration with Justice Rapid Response to train gender experts and place them on a roster for rapid deployment to investigate gender-based crimes during conflict. The experts trained in these courses come from all regions of the world, and those who successfully complete the training will become part of a special joint JRR-UN Women roster, making them available for rapid deployment at the request of Governments, as well as the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, and other international institutions with jurisdiction to carry out such investigations. There have already been several successful rapid deployments of these experts to Commissions of Inquiry for Syria and North Korea, and UN Women has matched every request it has received for support. We will continue to emphasize the need for further investments in such a creative tool.

Regarding evaluation, the United States strongly supports efforts to make UN Women’s programs ever more effective and closely tailored to their objectives. Given our commitment to UN Women’s success, we underscore our view that the basis for success lies in a methodologically sound, rigorous, and systemic evaluation of programs. We thank UN Women, therefore, for integrating a meta-analysis into its Corporate Evaluation plan. This is a useful way to review findings from decentralized evaluations and identify common threads.

Sufficient investment in monitoring and evaluation and other knowledge management systems, within existing resources, is critical to the success of future programs. We note that systemic weaknesses have been uncovered in UN Women’s monitoring and evaluation practices, and ask UN Women to outline the steps being taken to address these issues. In addition, UN Women should consistently use measurable results frameworks based on realistic goals and objectives.

We also stress our continuing appreciation for UN Women’s commitment to manage its funds and administer its programs with the greatest possible level of transparency. The United States greatly values the work of the UN system’s auditors in providing oversight to UN Women. UN Women’s speedy implementation of the Executive Board’s decision to make all internal audit reports publicly available is a positive step toward increasing organizational transparency and accountability. This practice will undoubtedly bring further insight into the operations of UN Women and allow us to better address critical systemic weaknesses. We take approving note of UN Women’s dedication to timely implementation of this decision.
We commend UN Women for its work to implement the regional architecture, including by developing performance indicators for it. As UN Women continues to implement the regional architecture, it should also establish effective oversight controls and provide staff with proper training on delegation of authority and risk management. Doing so will make the regional architecture more successful and sustainable.

We fully expect UN Women will continue to work to make its programs successful and cost-effective through monitoring and evaluation, audits, and other appropriate tools. In this regard, my delegation would like to voice appreciation for the dedication and effectiveness of outgoing Deputy Executive Director John Hendra, and wish him well. UN Women has proven itself, in just the few short years of its existence, a valuable voice and partner to advance the rights of women and girls globally. We look forward to our continued cooperation with and support of UN Women.

Thank you.