Thank you Mr. President

On behalf of Bangladesh delegation, may I congratulate you as President of the UN-Women for efficient stewardship of the Board. At the same time, may I also congratulate the Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General Madam Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka for her comprehensive and insightful statement this morning. Her statement provided a detailed overview of the efforts and challenges that the UN-Women is facing in current days.

Mr. President,

We are happy to note that UN-Women has established regional architecture to smoothen the operational activities. But is it not unusual that only 0.2% of the UN-Budget is earmarked for the UN-Women, when the half of the global population are women and girls and we often speak of gender equality? May be it is time for the UN-system to rationalize allocation of budget for gender parity and empowerment women? I may add that in Bangladesh, we have instituted gender budgeting system for women empowerment and gender parity.

Mr. President,

Under the strategic Plan 2014-17, the integrated Budget for 2016-17 is expected to be contributing to the achievement of UN-Women's integrated results framework. It is expected that institutional budget funding to the field offices will be strong for delivering expected results. Good news is; the resource position of the core and non-core is balanced at 50%-50%. But nevertheless, the resource bundle needs to be increased. Otherwise, resource mobilization will remain as a challenge for the UN-Women. We appreciate that in 2014, significant efforts were made to widen the partnership base, through increased support from a broad group of Member States and private sector partners. The result is significant---- the UN-Women's core and non-core resources reached their highest level since the Entity’s establishment ($164 million and $158 million, respectively), with a total income of $330 million and over 140 Member States contributed to the core resources. Please join me to applaud the UN-Women and also the member states.

Mr. President,

This session is being held at a time when MDG's are about to end with unfinished work and we are in the process of endorsing to the post-2015 development agenda with a new set of 17 goals and the UN is observing her 70th anniversary with greater hopes and aspiration to end poverty and hunger and also to achieve gender parity and end violence on women and girls. It is true that despite attempts by the UN and the member states yet disparity exits and women and girls disproportionately become victims of worldwide trafficking.
Mr. President,

As per report in 2014 the UN-Women began implementing ten steps for strengthening results-based management. The strategy identifies critical elements for strengthening staff capacity in results-based management and building a culture of effective programme management, focusing on the use of results-based management standards and the subsequent alignment of systems, functions and incentives behind them. During 2014, the standards were adopted and the UN-Women began using them to assess the quality of plans and reports. Also in 2014, UN-Women launched phase 1 of a new results-based management system, containing all the results and indicators from field programmes. The emerging data will be used to develop programming notes to strengthen results and knowledge management. On the basis of indicator data gathered through the new system, it is expected that there is a need to revisit some of the indicators in the strategic plan.

Mr. President,

The 2014 assessment of UN-Women by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network highlighted the Entity’s strong mandate, ongoing relevance and success to date in building the organization. The assessment examined organizational effectiveness and development results, with a focus on strategic management, operational management, relationship management and knowledge management, as well as relevance of programme activities to the local context and evidence of progress towards results. It is noteworthy that overall, UN-Women received a positive assessment, with most indicators rated strong or adequate. This is particularly positive for a relatively new organization, which has achieved significant results in the overall context of limited resources and rapid change. The assessment found that the clear mandate of UN-Women for promoting gender equality is a key strength of the organization, that the mandate remains relevant and yet more remains to be done.

Mr. President,

The meta-evaluation conducted by an external independent reviewer within the framework of the Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis system assessed the overall quality of all evaluations completed in 2014. The assessment rated 43.0 per cent as “very good”, 28.5 per cent as “good” and 28.5 per cent “satisfactory” (see figure 4). The appointment of regional evaluation specialists in each of the regions, the roll-out of the evaluation quality standards and assurance systems and the increased focus on outcomes of most evaluations have contributed to the overall improvement in the quality of evaluation reports. However, 35 per cent of evaluations managed by field offices (6 of 17) were found to be “satisfactory”, and required improvements in order to fully meet United Nations Evaluation Group standard.

Mr. President,

If we look upon the audit reports issued between 1 July 2010 and 31 December 2014 it included a total of 236 audit recommendations. As at 31 December 2014, 10 of the recommendations had been withdrawn, given that they were no longer relevant, owing to changes in the organizational structure and operations of UN-Women. Of the remaining 226 recommendations, 169 or 75 per cent had been fully implemented, 38 or 17 per cent were in the process of being implemented, and implementation activities are yet to be initiated for 8 per cent. May we expect that 25% of the remaining recommendations be fully implemented very soon?

Mr. President,

To empower women and also to make them capable to efficiently discharge their responsibilities, the GoB has attached top priority to girls education. In Bangladesh Primary level education is compulsory and free for all children aged between 6 and 10. All children attending primary and secondary schools receive textbooks free of cost on the first day of the
year in a festive atmosphere. This year on the 1st of January our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the free distribution of more than 326 million text books to the students. Not a small accomplishment! The education of girls up to grade XII in public institutions is also free. Apart from this, to encourage girl students to continue their studies and also to reduce dropout rates, the government is giving stipends especially to girl students. Government's proactive strategy for girls education resulted in gender parity—for example, in Primary school, female enrolment is 51% and in Secondary schools, it is 53% while male is 47 percent, a sharp departure of from few years ago when male was 65% and female was 35%.

Mr. President,

In order to help women empowerment, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has instituted gender-responsive budgeting so that budget is correctly spent on women. It has also created a reserve quota for women employment at every level of administration to enhance women participation in government jobs. No wonder, there are Women Judges, Women Ambassadors, Women Secretaries, women police and army officials. In Bangladesh, the top political leadership including the head of Government, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the House, the Deputy Leader of the House, the Agriculture Minister— all are women. Government also made a rule that in each Union, (lowest administrative tier) if the elected Chair is a male, then the Vice Chair has to be a female and vice versa. More than 14,000 women have been elected as public representatives.

Mr. President,

Violence against women is a common phenomenon everywhere, even in rich and developed societies. It still persists in Bangladesh. Therefore, the GoB has given high priority to ensuring protection of women against violence. Besides legal protection, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) operates a Central Cell phone to ensure coordination of work on prevention of violence against women and children and extends necessary support to the victims of violence. The MOWCA now maintains a helpline (10921) to provide legal, medical, rehabilitation and counselling help to victims of violence. Bad news is, till to-date, violence is not over, till to-date, child marriage is daunting us, till to-date, there is discrimination between male and female. Therefore, the challenges of UN-Women is not over. It has to gear up its efforts in a coherent and coordinated way, 'He for She' so that it can create a global wave that can wipe out women discrimination and violence against women across all nations.

Mr. President,

We understand that resource mobilization effort is to strengthen the UN-Women and its work in various decision-making forums thereby enabling its efforts to increase the volume of resources and secure long-term, predictable, flexible and less earmarked resources that are aligned with the Strategic Plan and mandate of UN-Women. In this regard, UN-Women may put an emphasis on the importance of core resources that are the highest quality funding to the organization as they support the implementation of the full range of outcomes set out in the Strategic Plan.

Finally, We would request UN-Women for more focused efforts on widening and deepening its partnership base for more resources to fully implement the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and I would like to reiterate our fullest support to the UN Women in its journey towards changing the lives of millions of girls and women and also, at the same time, changing the stereotype and the mindset of men and boys across the globe including that of ours.

I thank you Mr. President.