Statement by

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Deputy Permanent Representative
To the United Nations

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UN Women Executive Board

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Thank you Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking the Executive Director, Madam Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka for her inspiring remarks and by commending the UN Women for its pivotal and stimulating role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide. We acknowledge the entity’s coordination, normative and operational functions and we declare our continuous support for its strategic goals and mission.

We are fully aware that in order to fulfill its mandate, the UN Women needs adequate resources, therefore I would like to take this opportunity to underline that Poland will continue its financial support for the organization also in 2015.

Given the potential of my country, I also believe that we could contribute to the UN Women through human capital. It is my firm belief that increasing the representation of Poland as well as other Eastern European Group countries amongst the UN Women staff could be a valuable asset for the organization.

Mr. President,

We welcome today’s presentations of reports on the UN Women Strategic Plan for 2014-2017, evaluation functions and audit matters. As these reports confirm, the entity is well managed and operates according to the highest standards. Poland appreciates the fact that the UN Women places such great importance on the improvement and proper implementation of its operational activities. We highly commend its progress in the six priority areas, especially in the field of political empowerment and elimination of violence against women. My government believes that projects in these two key areas should remain on the top of the UN Women agenda.
Mr. President,

The role of UN Women in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action cannot be underestimated. In the 20 years since the adoption of that cornerstone document for restoration of respect and human dignity of women - we have witnessed unprecedented advancement in global recognition of women’s rights. Many of the actions that were undertaken by Poland to promote gender equality were inspired by the UN Women.

In 2010, the Polish Parliament adopted quotas requiring that both women and men constitute at least 35 per cent of candidates on the electoral lists. In December 2014 for the second time in the history of Poland - a woman has taken the office of Prime Minister. We have currently 40 per cent of women in the position of undersecretaries of state in the government. Women in Poland are becoming more visible and active in all areas of public life, both in politics and economy.

Just recently we have also ratified the Council of Europe Convention of Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Mr. President,

The major drive of social change in the field of women’s rights in Poland is the large and active women’s movement. We would never be able to change the reality solely with government’s programs and actions. Let me recall here, the work of the Women’s Congress, that has been established in 2009 in order to provide a forum for discussion on the advancement of women and enhancement of their visibility and involvement in the areas of politics, economy, social life and culture.
The continuous need for a change and for taking women’s rights seriously, is evident. We have strengthened the legal guarantees of equality between women and men and emphasized the inadmissibility of discrimination, however there is still much room to fulfill our commitments made twenty years ago. We are confident that our continuing work carried out both nationally as well as within international fora brings us closer to accomplishing these set goals.

I thank you.