Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations
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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

DURING

THE

ANNUAL SESSION 2015
OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN-WOMEN)

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UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Please check against delivery
Distinguished Delegates,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Mr. President,  

Thank you for giving me the floor. We thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women for her report which notes the achievements and the results realized through implementation of the strategic plan.

We commend UN-Women for raising the profile of gender equality and women empowerment work at the Global, Regional and National Levels in member states, Kenya included.

Mr. President,  

I wish to reaffirm the Government of Kenya’s commitment to Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. The Constitution of Kenya (2010), our Vision 2030, and existing legislation speak to this commitment. But beyond this, the Government’s agenda is premised on unwavering political will and conviction that empowering women is key to the development of our nation. Indeed His Excellency the President of Kenya has been at the forefront of championing Gender Equality and Women’s empowerment demonstrated by among others strategically locating the Gender mandate in the Presidency and personally launching the UN-Women initiated HeForShe Campaign - making him the second President in Africa to do so.

Mr. President,  

The partnership between the Government of Kenya and UN-Women in advancing the Gender Equality and Women’s Agenda has led to meaningful results. Together we have undertaken steps to galvanize a cross section of actors to align their work with the Governments national priorities on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment through a Gender Sector Coordination Group resulting in increased synergies and strategic partnerships. Key areas of collaboration, include Institutional strengthening of the National Gender Machinery and its agencies across the country and sectors; Engendering of the National Monitoring and Evaluation framework; pre and post CSW forums as well as support of Kenyan delegates at the 58th and 59th sessions; preparation of the Country’s CEDAW report; consultative forums between the devolved and national levels to galvanize priority actions for accelerating Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women; Capacity building to increase uptake of Kenya’s Transformative Economic Empowerment Programme that reserves a minimum of 30% of Government Public Procurement Opportunities for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities as well as supporting the development of a formula for implementation of the 2/3rd Gender Principle contained in Kenya’s constitution.
Mr. President,

The Government of Kenya appreciates and recognizes efforts taken by UN-Women to galvanize the African region to speak in one voice in preparing for the 58th and 59th Sessions of the CSW through the regional conferences. As noted in the report, a key result was a united African voice rooting for a standalone goal on gender in the post 2015 Agenda. The guidelines provided by UN-women for reporting on 20 years implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action enabled Member States to develop quality reports. Kenya was party to the UN-Women led Campaign entitled "Empowering Women, empowering humanity: Picture It!".

Mr. President,

As we appreciate the work and the significant results achieved so far, it would be important for this session to identify and highlight other challenges and lessons learnt in implementing the strategic plan besides the very important one of inadequate resources. This will be important in establishing measures needed to address the challenges faced and built on the lessons learnt.

Based on our own experience as Kenya, we would also want to see strengthened collaboration and increased harmonization of work between the UN agencies particularly in some key results areas in gender equality and women empowerment. This will be useful in reducing overlaps and duplication and in creating synergy for the agencies to effectively contribute to concrete change for advancing these commitments at the country level. This will also ensure that funds are expended prudently by avoiding to fund similar work being undertaken by agencies at the national level. A sound monitoring and evaluation framework of the implementation of the Strategic Plan is key.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, in recognition of the commendable work by UN-Women in advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at National, Regional and International Level and in view of the request for increased funding so as to enable the entity fully and effectively implement its strategic plan, I am pleased to inform you that the Kenya Government reiterates it's commitment to contribute to the work of UN Women.

I Thank You.