U.S. Statement
UN Women Executive Board
Annual Session
June 30, 2015
Delivered by Ambassador Richard Erdman

Mr. President, Madame Executive Director, Distinguished Delegates,

The United States strongly supports UN Women’s strategic priorities and welcomes its accomplishments to date. UN Women plays the key role in coordinating and catalyzing efforts across the UN system to advance the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the multilateral system.

UN Women has had considerable success in recent years as evidenced by the progress achieved in almost all outcome indicators of the 2014-2017 strategic plan. One conspicuous success was on women’s economic empowerment, one of UN Women’s thematic priorities. UN Women has been central to shaping global discussion on key issues of economic empowerment, including unpaid care work, domestic workers, home-based workers, and women migrant workers. We encourage UN Women to continue to channel discussion of economic empowerment into constructive national level policy.

We commend UN Women on its progress to date and note that success in advancing its strategic priorities can be seen in UN Women’s impact internationally. In 2014 alone, UN Women fostered gender-sensitive constitutions, legal frameworks, and policies in 46 countries through knowledge sharing, advocacy, and technical support.

We are also pleased by UN Women’s progress in countering gender-based violence and its many negative effects. UN Women has promoted the adoption of laws and policies to protect women from various forms of violence. It has also employed the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as another powerful and tangible way to counter gender-based violence. In 2014 the Fund distributed 8.3 million dollars to 25 projects working to end violence against women in 23 different countries and territories.

The United States is looking for ways to enhance the assets available to the Fund, as well as taking steps to increase resources available to UN Women at large.

We would especially like to highlight UN Women’s noteworthy efforts to counter violence against indigenous women and girls. UN Women has worked to bring attention to the high rates of violence and discrimination against indigenous women and has also supported gender sensitive programs to amplify the voice and influence of indigenous women. In the past, UN Women, with the Asia Indigenous Peoples’ Pact, convened indigenous women, gender activists, and human rights activists together to share knowledge and best practices. We heartily endorse these initiatives.

One area that we would like to see receive more attention is the challenges faced by older women. We appreciate that there are already some efforts to look at the situations of women throughout the life cycle, and believe this remains an issue that could benefit from more international concern.

UN Women’s catalytic role in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment is crucial as we head into the post-2015 era. We are certain UN Women will continue to advance its agenda through implementation of the strategic plan, and we urge a continued focus on improving political participation and access to decision-making, improving economic empowerment, and ending gender based violence.

Thank you.