Statement of Latvia under agenda item 2
of the annual session of UN-Women Executive Board
30 June 2015

Mr. President,
Madam Executive Director,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me on behalf of the Government of Latvia to commend you, Mister President, for your skillful leadership of the Executive Board.

Like many previous speakers, my delegation also welcomes the statements made by you and by the Executive Director this morning. We read with great interest the first report on progress made in the implementation of UN-Women strategic plan for 2014 - 2017. No doubt, UN-Women has demonstrated its growing ability to achieve results and has become an important and effective partner for change at the global, regional and country levels. Latvia appreciates the work done by UN-Women in the area of promoting gender equality, human rights and empowerment of women and girls, including its strong leadership in the UN system on these issues. In this regard, we especially commend UN-Women for excellent preparations for the commemoration and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action that culminated at this year's session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

We note with satisfaction that in the past year UN-Women has achieved good results in its operational presence at country level. While progress has been reported across almost all outcome indicators of the strategic plan, similarly to what my delegation has said about the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action earlier this year - much more needs to be done in order to remove obstacles that hinder the full participation of women in social, political and economic spheres.
of life. Much more needs to be done to eliminate discrimination and violence against women. UN-Women's continued support to the strengthening of national capacities will be very important. However, political will and commitment at the national level is even more important. Latvian Government continues to work towards achieving both de iure and de facto gender equality by addressing the issues related to women's economic empowerment, work and family life balance, women's healthcare and domestic violence. In order to support the work of UN-Women, Latvian Government has provided financial contribution in the past few years, and will look into the options of possible support later this year.

Latvia commends UN-Women for being an active partner in international response to the Ebola outbreak last year, by drawing special attention to the needs of women and girls who were disproportionately affected by the disease. UN-Women's emphasis on the role and responsibility of men and boys in the advancement of gender equality has been very timely. We strongly support the campaign "HeForShe" which has gained good visibility and more commitment from men and boys worldwide.

Similarly, Latvia recognizes the leading role of UN-Women in preparing the global study on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325, and we look forward to the high-level review later this year.

On the organizational point - we would like to congratulate Mr Yannick Glemarec on his appointment as the Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme and wish him success in his work.

In conclusion, Latvia is convinced that there is a strong link between the achievement of gender equality and sustainable development and that link should be reflected in the upcoming post-2015 development agenda. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be a stand-alone goal, as well as a cross-cutting issue integrated into the targets and
indicators of all the Sustainable Development Goals. Women's empowerment and sustainable development have been high on the agenda of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the past 6 months. We appreciate UN-Women's firm stand and advocacy on these issues and look forward to the "Global Leaders' Meeting" on the 27th of September 2015 which will provide a platform for commitment to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of Beijing Platform for Action, as well as to the realization of gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda.

I thank you.