Statement by Mr. Mayank Joshi on Agenda Item No. 2 “Strategic Plan” at the Annual Session of the Executive Board of UN Women on 30th June, 2015

Mr. President

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I thank Madam Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, for her informative remarks and for the Reports on the Agenda.

I also take this opportunity to commend the dynamic leadership and dedication of the Executive Director and the UN Women team for achieving significant milestones in such a short span of time, and despite limited resources and a rapidly changing environment.

Mr. President,

We welcome the reported progress made in the Strategic Plan, and note that a lot remains to be done before any country achieves gender equality. The success of numerous initiatives and actions, like the HeForShe campaign, by UN Women justifies its key and praiseworthy role in transforming lives of women globally. To maintain this, continuous strengthening of the UN-Women institution and its functions must be a high priority within the UN System.

We would also welcome more details on the actions taken in the implementation of the Strategic Plan with an emphasis with regard to the implementation of the QCPR on UN operational activities for development, in the future relevant reports.

We are happy to note that UN-Women has achieved its budgeted targets for the first time. However, low level of approved assessed contributions and increasing dependency on voluntary contribution remains to be addressed. Encouraging innovative funding mechanisms and effective mobilization of adequate resources needs is essential, in order to reach the budgeted target of USD 880 million as voluntary contribution for 2016-17. India has on its part, fulfilled in 2014, its multi – year commitment of contribution of USD 5 million to UN Women.

Focus should also be on leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives with a view to sharing best practices and capacity development. Fruitful partnerships with all relevant stakeholders must be encouraged.

Enhanced use of ICT tools for women in relevant areas, on one hand, would be instrumental in bridging the existing gender digital divide, and, on the other, ensure empowerment of women in order to increase their contribution to the economic growth of their country. Use of information technology can enable contributing to elimination of feminization of poverty and breaking its intergenerational cycle.

We accord a high priority to further strengthening structural and institutional independence of evaluation for ensuring its utility, credibility and quality. We appreciate the “sound outcome” of the evaluation and audit reports which strengthen our conviction in UN-
We remain hopeful that a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women empowerment in the post 2015 development agenda and gender mainstreaming in other relevant goals, would bring us a step closer to realizing the objectives of Beijing Declaration and its Platform of Action by 2030. There is no doubt that an equality-based Post 2015 Development Agenda would be instrumental in achieving “the future we want”. This is possible only with strong political commitment, greater resource mobilization, adequate investment and sound accountability framework.

Mr. President,

We commend the role UN Women plays in working for empowerment of women in India, including partnering with Ministry of Rural Development in five flagship national economic empowerment programmes, specially benefitting the rural women. We also welcome the UN Women’s Safe Cities Global Initiative for the city of New Delhi, which has entered its third phase.

India is committed on its part to work with UN Women and the UN System for a world with empowered women living with dignity and contributing as equal partners in development of an environment free from violence and discrimination. As Swami Vivekananda had said quote “There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of woman is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.” un quote.

I Thank you.

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