Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your able leadership as President of the Executive Board. I also extend my congratulations to Madame Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, and her staff for their strong start in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

I would like to note my particular appreciation for UN Women’s leadership in securing a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the final report of the SDGs Open Working Group. I believe that the Post-2015 development agenda, to be adopted this September, will surely help accelerate the transformation of our society into one that is more equal and just, benefiting not only women and girls, but also men and boys.

With regards to UN Women’s operational activities, the 82 percent implementation rate of budgeted activities is impressive, given the fact that UN Women was created only four years ago and started unfolding its regional architecture just two years ago.

With gender addressed as a cross-cutting issue across the agendas of all UN activities, UN Women is in an unparalleled position to engage itself in a wide range of areas. As such, in dealing with an increasingly demanding and, at times, even overwhelming workload, UN Women must be more selective with its work and prioritize more impactful tipping points moving forward.

My delegation calls upon UN Women to continue strengthening its strategic partnerships with civil society and national entities in its operational activities, providing such partners with adequate support for capacity-building. In this way, UN Women can serve as a trainer of trainers, a counselor of counselors, and an advocate of advocates to obtain more effective and sustainable results. The knowledge gateway for women’s economic empowerment, “empowerwomen.org” is an excellent example.

The portal serves as a platform for a wide range of stakeholders to share best practices, allowing for the further improvement of UN Women’s
operational activities through collective wisdom and firsthand experiences. The Republic of Korea looks forward to seeing UN Women utilize information technologies in its operational activities to an even greater extent.

With regards to UN Women’s coordination mandate, we recognize that it must be very challenging to ensure the cooperation of numerous peer entities, each with their own mandates within the UN. As such, we commend UN Women for the progress it has nonetheless made in this respect. In particular, we look forward to learning the results of the global review of the implementation of the gender scorecard. We believe that the review’s findings will contribute to upgrading accountability mechanisms and aligning them more closely with the System-wide Action Plan.

Last but not least, my delegation would like to express its highest appreciation for the inclusion of women with disabilities in the Strategic Plan 2014-2017. This is the first time that UN Women’s strategic plan addresses this important issue. We look forward to seeing progress in the advancement of the rights of women with disabilities and the empowerment of such women across all sectors.

In this regard, I thank UN Women for having co-hosted the side event on “Women with Disabilities,” along with DESA and the ROK Mission, on the occasion of the 8th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Mr. President,

As we progress towards Beijing+20, the 15th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 and the historic launch of the Post-2015 development agenda, the Republic of Korea will remain a strong supporter of UN Women in its work for gender equality and the empowerment of women in 2015 and beyond. Thank you.

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