BRAZIL

UN-Women Executive Board

Annual Session 2014

Statement

17 June 2014

(Check against delivery)
Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the statement made by Under-Secretary General and UN-Women Executive Director, Madam Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. Let me also thank UN-Women Secretariat for organizing this Annual Session and its preparatory documents.

I would like to commend the results presented in document UNW/2014/2, the final report of the entity on the implementation of its strategic plan from the previous cycle, 2011-2013. We praise the efforts undertaken by UN-Women through its operational, normative and coordination roles in promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights and interests globally throughout its last strategic plan.

According to the report, a more decentralized regional setting for UN-Women indicated three significant benefits in 2013: consolidation of resources and economies of scale; empowered decision-making in the field and improved efficiency; and strengthened country offices. We agree that the progress made on the regional architecture also increased the organization's capacity to play a central role in inter-agency coordination efforts at the regional and country levels. In Brazil, for instance, the UN-Women Office is engaged in the creation of a mechanism for joint operations with other UN entities.

The evaluation of these three years of implementation of UN-Women Strategic Plan 2011-2013 comes in an appropriate time, when two debates have a great influence in the discussions of gender equality promotion and women's empowerment: the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women - Beijing Conference - and the discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In three years of operations of the Entity, Brazil confirms its perception of UN-Women as a major advocacy player and technical contributor within the UN Development System. Its importance is all the more emphasized in the context of the current intergovernmental negotiations on Sustainable Development Goals.

SDGs require concrete results and strong international commitments to eradicate poverty, promote human rights and advance gender equality. My delegation endorses the report in recognizing the central role played by UN-Women as part of the UN Technical Supporting Team of the SDGs Open Working Group. UN-Women has effectively presented the case for gender equality and women's empowerment both as an end in itself and as essential to sustainable development, building on the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference.

The increasing progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment is both a challenge and a stimulus. Brazil reaffirms its position in the sense that the pursuit of women's rights should be based not only on general policies of universal reach, but also on measures specifically targeted at women as a group subject to different vulnerable situations.
In this connection, let me mention the recent visit I have made to Guine-Bissau, in my capacity as Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. I would like to publicly praise and recognize the outstanding work UN-Women is performing in Guine-Bissau. Over there, I had the opportunity to visit projects financed by the Entity and I was genuinely impressed.

As for knowledge-sharing programmes implemented by UN-Women, we commend the agency for its continued effort to develop its role as a broker and hub of knowledge on gender equality. UN-Women must also be recognized for the increased importance it ascribes to South-South and triangular cooperation and the replication of good practices and successful initiatives. Brazil has been honored to work in partnership with UN-Women in this regard and would like to see other organizations following the lead of UN-Women in stepping up efforts to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in their practices and initiatives.

Mr. President,

I take the opportunity of the final report on the progress made in the last cycle of UN-Women Strategic Plan to recognize the guidance offered by UN-Women towards the devising of Brazilian gender-based policies. In this context, let me highlight the contribution of UN-Women to the achievement of significant policy changes, such as the support given to domestic workers in Brazil to achieve legal equality in labour rights for the first time through a constitutional amendment. Let me also highlight the successful results from the joint programme between UN Women, UNICEF, and UN-Habitat in Rio de Janeiro, called “Safe and Sustainable Cities for All”.

In conclusion, I reaffirm my delegation's continued support in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women through the UN development system and I offer my best wishes to you and all Board Members of a successful Session.

Thank you.