STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. KAREL J.G. VAN OOSTEROM

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

for

Agenda item 2 – Strategic Plan
UNWOMEN Executive Board Annual Session

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Thank you Mr. President and Madam Executive Director, Phumzile, for your inspiring statement.

**Introduction**

Last week we had the largest summit ever to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. I fully agree with you, madam Executive Director/Phumzile, that stronger action is needed and long term in-depth solutions are required. The stories about the fate of young women in various parts of the world are horrific.

As we all know, ending this violence means addressing the root causes such as gender discrimination and disempowerment of women from the day they are born. More and more member states, organizations, companies, men, boys, women and girls join UN Women in striving for a world where justice, peace and equality are a reality for every woman and girl.

I would like to make a few comments on the annual report, our cooperation with UN Women in the area of Women, Peace and Security and the Beijing +20 commemoration.

**Annual report**

The Netherlands welcomes the progress reflected in the annual report. UN Women has increased its delivery of results in the field, an important achievement that reflects UN Women’s more solid representation on the ground.

We equally appreciate your efforts to strengthen the accountability within the UN system for gender equality and empowerment of women. The 2013
report on the UN Sector Wide Action Plan shows progress in this area and at the same time illustrates the need for many agencies to further invest in gender equality in order to reach the minimum standards.

Strong and independent Audit and Evaluation functions are crucial instruments to ensure accountability and to provide critical feedback and lessons for improving performance. We therefore support the increase of staffing and funding levels for the audit function and commend UN women for the strong progress in the area of result based management, reporting and evaluation.

It is encouraging and a great achievement that UN Women has been able to mobilise more resources, particularly core contributions. We encourage UN Women to continue to further develop its resource mobilisation strategy and to diversify its partnerships, including for non-core contributions. The Netherlands will continue its contribution to the Strategic Plan through core as well as non-core contributions in the coming years.

**Cooperation in the area of Women Peace and Security.**

For the Netherlands, progress in the area of women, peace and security is a priority. We welcome UN Women’s contribution to the work of the Security Council on women, peace and security. Women’s agency and participation in peace processes and access to justice are women’s rights. These are indispensable to achieve lasting progress in conflict resolution and peace processes.

We partnered with UN Women and UNDPA to support Syrian women to make their voices heard around the Geneva negotiations process and will continue to support the ‘Syrian Women’s Initiative for Peace and Democracy’ that was established. In addition we will provide an expert to support UN
Women’s team that is working on the Global Study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325.

**Beijing + 20**

We highly commend UN Women’s intergovernmental work and its support to the post-2015 discussions.

Next year we will commemorate the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. We fully agree with you that this is an important occasion to highlight the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women as a central development, security and human rights issue. We look forward to work with UN Women towards a successful Beijing + 20 celebration that will mobilise political and financial commitment for realising gender equality beyond and as part of the post-2015 agenda.

The Netherlands is willing to give financial support to the Beijing+20 project of UN Women up to 10 percent of the total projected costs to support the project and to enable consultations with civil society and global thematic events in particular.

We know we can count on UN Women’s continued support and advocacy for gender equality and women’s empowerment and look forward to close and continued cooperation in the coming years.

Thank you.