STATEMENT

BY

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ON THE ANNUAL SESSION 2014 OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

ITEM 2: PROGRESS MADE ON UN-WOMEN STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2013, INCLUDING OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to express our appreciation for the progress report of the Executive Director of UN-Women on the strategic plan 2011-2013, including operational activities, as well as for her insightful statement covering the work of the entity.

The report clearly demonstrates the tremendous strides recorded by UN-Women since its establishment in 2010 towards delivering results and tangible outcomes at the international normative as well as operational levels, where the impact of its work is being felt at the national and local levels in an increasing number of countries in all parts of the world.

In this regard, we are encouraged by the success of UN-Women in leveraging its normative, coordination and operational strengths to advance the global agenda for gender equality and women’s empowerment, in spite of budgetary challenges.

We are further encouraged by the continued efforts by UN-Women to improve its management and evaluation functions to deliver better outcomes for member states, partners and stakeholders. With improved resourcing, through higher levels of contributions by member states to both the core and non-core budgets, we are confident that UN-Women will continue to build on the significant investments made in the areas of advocacy and mobilisation, partnership, innovation, results and knowledge management amongst others in delivering enhanced outcomes for women globally.

Mr. President,

A mere three year’s since its formation, UN-Women is now uniquely placed to leverage the opportunities that will be presented by the upcoming negotiation process on the post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review later this year to positively influence the outcomes arising from these two major important events.

In this regard, UN-Women have an important role to play in working together with member states and other stakeholders towards ensuring the further strengthening of the normative framework in relation to women’s rights and women’s empowerment. In this regard, it will be critical that we build on the MDGs by ensuring the mainstreaming of gender equality and the empowerment of women in all goals and targets across the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Undoubtedly, the post-2015 Development Agenda will require a standalone goal if we are to resist a global push-back on the gains made on the promotion of women’s human rights over the past two decades in particular.
Mr. President,

We have seen significant progress recorded in a number of the MGDS and the positive impact it has made towards improving the lives of billions of people in the developing world. However, it is an area of concern that uneven progress has been achieved on the MDGs on gender equality and empowerment of women and maternal mortality in particular. Consequently, more needs to be done as women still bear a disproportionate burden of multiple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, with women also comprising the majority of the world’s poor.

The Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 Development Agenda articulates the need for inclusive growth and people-centred development, reaffirming therein that the eradication of poverty in all its forms must be the overarching priority in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

We therefore call on UN-Women to specifically target poverty eradication in its programming activities as an overarching goal. In this regard, we welcome the fact that the QCPR recognises the need to address the challenges of poverty eradication at the operational level.

Mr. President,

We welcome the emphasis placed by UN-Women on women’s leadership and participation, as well as on increased access for women to economic opportunities and empowerment. The participation of women in their own development is essential to achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication, peace and security and human rights.

My delegation recognises in the report of the Executive Director, the significant work being done at the country level by UN-Women in ending violence against women and girls and the ongoing focus placed on women’s increased leadership in the areas of peace and security and humanitarian response, where more work remains to be done.

We are pleased that the report highlights an increase in inter-agency coordination and cooperation which provides a framework for the creation of opportunities and space for women to be at the centre of processes impacting on their safety, security and development, in equal partnership with men.

*In Conclusion, Mr. President*

We commend UN-Women for improved results and evidence-based management and coordination efficiencies which have allowed for greater impact at the operational and country levels.
We look forward to a fruitful deliberation on the various agenda items for this Annual Session.

I thank you.