Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to address this Annual Session of the UN Women Executive Board. I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Board on your able work.

I would also like to express our gratitude to Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN WOMEN and her dedicated team for the hard work they have undertaken.

We witness with pleasure UN WOMEN turning into a more organized, efficient and stronger institution each year, as shown by the progress achieved in the implementation of the UN WOMEN strategic plan in 2013.

The report presented to the Board on this issue clearly highlights the concrete achievements undertaken by UN WOMEN.

At a time of major political, social and fiscal challenges, UN WOMEN played an inspiring leadership role in combatting violence against women, fostering a normative framework for ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women, enhancing women’s political participation and leadership as well as increasing the access of women to economic empowerment opportunities.

This critical role should continue at this important juncture as we prepare to complete the ‘unfinished business’ of the Millennium Development Goals, by building on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and related agreements. We count upon UN WOMEN to continue its leadership and facilitation in ensuring that gender equality becomes an integrated part of the SDGs agenda.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating Turkey’s steadfast support to UN WOMEN. Turkey is pleased and honoured to host the regional office of UN WOMEN for Europe and Central Asia, which started its activities in the recent months. As the host country, we will continue to render full support to the work
of the office, which we believe will perform an important role in a critical part of the world for UN WOMEN.

Thank you.