UN Women Executive Board Annual Session 2014

Agenda item 4: Pledging statement

Statement by Mr Peter Versegxi
Minister Counsellor
of Australia to the United Nations

(Check against delivery)

Mr President

Australia recognises that gender equality is central to increasing economic and human development and we gender equality and women's empowerment are key priorities in our foreign aid policy.

As part of this commitment, Australia was pleased to provide AUD8 million in core funding to UN Women in 2014 and I am pleased to inform you today that Australia will increase its core contribution for 2015 to AUD8.2 million.

We were also pleased to contribute over AUD10 million in non-core funding to UN Women in 2013. This included support to the Safe Cities Program in Port Moresby; support to UN Women in Afghanistan to expand access for women to protection services; funding UN Women to support the Royal Government of Cambodia to develop and implement the second National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and support
to UN Women's efforts to emphasize the importance of gender-sensitive data and statistics through the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative.

We look forward to continuing to support specific UN Women programmes that align with Australia's priorities.

Mr President, Australia will continue to support UN Women both through core and non-core contributions, recognising the crucial role the Entity plays in improving the lives of women and girls around the world.