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– Pledging event –

Statement by Anca Jurcan
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by recalling that last year Romania joined the donor community supporting the invaluable activity of UN Women. Today, it is my honour to announce the decision of the Romanian Government to continue this endorsement and to increase the contribution for the current year, despite existing financial and economical constraints.

I would like to express our deep appreciation for the important work UN Women undertakes in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women around the world. In the context of the ongoing processes related to defining the post-2015 development agenda, our common efforts should encompass the need to improve the situation of all women worldwide. This endeavour requires dedicated and tireless support in order to see the adequate reflection in the future agenda.

As we are approaching Beijing+20, we all have to take stock of the lessons learned and the challenges we still have to overcome in promoting the empowerment of women and girls, and the respect of the fundamental rights and liberties.

Allow me to take this opportunity to inform you on recent institutional developments in Romania, reflecting my country's commitment to take all necessary steps, in order to ensure gender equality. In March 2014, the Romanian Government established the Department on Gender Equality, led by a Secretary of State. The Department’s main focus is on coordinating the design and implementation of the national policies and strategies on promoting gender equality, in all fields.

The effective implementation of gender equality and treatment is based, in our opinion, on a genuine dialogue and open communication between the national authorities, at central and local level, NGOs, academia, unions, and employers’ organizations. Therefore, the National Commission for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men is a consultative mechanism, bringing together all relevant stakeholders and focusing on mainstreaming gender equality in the elaboration and implementation of all sectorial public policies.
Mr. Chair,

Before concluding, I would like to emphasise that the National Strategy on gender equality for 2014-2017 and its Action Plan have been elaborated and are in the final stage of internal approval. The document identifies several key areas of action. Efforts will focus on education, access to labour market, especially for women vulnerable to discrimination, equal participation in decision making, the importance of the conciliation of family and career, combating gender violence and mainstreaming the gender perspective in the national policies. Many of these fields are of importance to all member states, and we express our readiness to further collaborate and share experiences and lessons on those issues, together with UN Women, with the aim of improving the life of each and every woman and girl worldwide so that no one is left behind.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.