Joint statement on joint evaluation of joint gender programmes.

Thank you Mr President, Mr Segone and Mr Hendra for your presentations. Allow me to deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Finland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and my own country the Netherlands.

We commend the evaluation office for coordinating the first-ever joint evaluation of joint programmes on gender equality in the UN. The evaluation is comprehensive and transparent and has increased our understanding on the potential as well as the challenges of joint gender programmes. The evaluation has also revealed important lessons that are relevant for other joint UN programmes.

We also appreciate the possibility to discuss this important evaluation here today and welcome the management response to it.

As we are moving towards a post-2015 agenda, it is important that the UN prepares to be fit for purpose. We believe that harmonisation and cooperation within the UN system, including well-coordinated joint programmes, is crucial for the UN development system to foster its effectiveness and to maintain its relevance in the future. However, what is equally important is that the joint programmes are fit for purpose.

This evaluation made clear that though joint programmes can be valuable we should not automatically assume that the development of a joint gender programme is the most appropriate approach in each and every context. Especially if joint gender programmes are of very small scale.

We consider the overarching evaluation recommendation to ensure a clear strategic rationale before starting a joint programme very important. We are pleased that UN Women and its sister agencies agree and have taken concrete actions to follow up on this recommendation. Such a rationale should be based on a thorough analysis and should include an understanding of the cost-effectiveness of joint programmes compared to other types of programming.

In addition, the evaluation provides useful recommendations for improving the quality and inclusiveness of the design phase and for the development of a shared
approach to articulate the different roles of agencies involved. These roles might also vary in accordance with the circumstances.

We also take good notice of the recommendation to donors to permit flexibility of approach, depending on the context.

Let me end by encouraging UN women and its sister agencies to continue their harmonisation efforts, including joint programming and joint programs, and to build up evidence about different approaches. Strengthened harmonisation is a basic precondition for the UN to deliver effective and relevant responses, based on shared analysis, shared goals and One Programme.

Thank you