UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

STATEMENT BY MR. MARTIN SHEARMAN
AMBASSADOR FOR DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACEBUILDING
UNITED KINGDOM MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IN RESPONSE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN WOMEN,
PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA

9 February 2014

(Check against delivery)
Mr President, I would like to thank you, and the Executive Director, for your opening statements.

Mr President,

2015 will be an exciting year for UN Women. In September, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, only a month before the 70th anniversary of the UN itself. Both these anniversaries are important moments for us all to reflect on how far we’ve come and to publicly reaffirm our commitment to the agreements we’ve made.

Importantly, it also the moment to ensure that in the months and years ahead there is no roll back on the progress made for girls and women since Beijing. UN Women has a huge role to play in this through helping Member States reach the best possible outcomes for girls and women in the post 2015 framework.

We expect the framework to include a strong and explicit commitment to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realisation of their human rights. We need a powerful standalone goal that places gender equality at the centre of our development efforts; targets across all goals which spur transformation of the structural barriers to the empowerment of women and girls, a commitment to improve data collection, disaggregated by sex, to ensure effective implementation; and gender integrated throughout the post-2015 framework. Forthcoming discussions on
implementation and financing of our new agenda must also take gender equality fully into account. Any further refinement of the framework must demonstrate this strong and explicit commitment.

We need your continued leadership Madam Executive Director, as well as the support of your organisation, to help Member States rise to this challenge.

Mr President

We’re looking forward to this afternoon’s presentation on UN Women’s activities in response to the Ebola outbreak and hope we can hear more about the results achieved or to be achieved. We invite UN Women to continue to assess the needs of women in the affected countries and those at risk, and to work with relevant organisations leading the response to ensure identified gaps are being addressed.

Mr President

This year progress on the crucial Women, Peace & Security Agenda will be important too. UN Women is undertaking a global study of the last 15 years of implementing Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. We hope this will pull together meaningful evidence for what works and what doesn’t, and make concrete and actionable recommendations. It is vital that this study is accessible to a wide range of audiences including decision-makers in the military. To
mark the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the Security Council will hold a High Level Review in October that will draw from the publication of the Global Study. We hope Member States will take this as an opportunity to make new ambitious commitments on this agenda.

Mr President

Madam Executive Director

We have carried out our own review of the core funding that we are providing to UN Women. We carefully reviewed the assessment of UN Women made by the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN). Both reports show that UN Women continues to make steady progress in setting up its operational structure, in developing a focus on results and in improving its performance management system. The fundraising results are commendable, with the highest level of voluntary contributions received to date, amounting to $275.4 million. This is very positive, but unfortunately not yet sufficient. The note on Financing the UN Women Strategic Plan is a good basis for our discussion later today, and sets out well what needs to be done. We urge you to continue your efforts to attract more funding and broaden the donor base.

We hope that the reporting against the new Strategic Plan and Integrated Results Framework will give concrete evidence that these structural reforms have resulted into greater support for women and girls in countries. We also note that a number of senior positions within UN Women have yet to be filled.
We urge you to ensure that your senior team is operational and ready to assist you in this important year.

In closing, Mr President, Madam Executive Director,

The United Kingdom is proud of its partnership with UN Women, and is committed to supporting the fulfilment of UN Women's mandate. It is because of that commitment that our Secretary of State for International Development announced last week that the UK will continue to contribute £12.5m to regular resources for our financial year 2015 to 2016.

I thank you.