Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to express our sincere congratulations to you and the other bureau members on your election. I would also like to thank the Executive Director of UN Women, Under Secretary-General Madame Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, for her inspiring statement.

Since its establishment, UN Women has carried out its unique and transformative mandate while successfully integrating normative, operational and coordination functions. My delegation commends UN Women’s management team and staff for the achievements they have made in the past few years.

Substantial progress has been made particularly in the realm of global norms relating to gender equality and women’s rights. However, data and statistics continue reminding us that much remains to be done.

The vast potentials of women and girls are untapped, resulting in massive social and economic loss. They suffer disproportionately from disasters, violence, conflicts, economic crises and climate change. Harmful practices persist, and sexual violence especially in armed conflicts continues with impunity.

UN Women and the international community at large share the daunting task of filling these considerable gaps between norms and reality, which affect not only women and girls but also men and boys.

With the Beijing+20 review process and Post-2015 development agenda setting process ongoing, the international community is at a critical juncture. It must mobilize the strong collective will to further promote gender equality, empowerment of women and the full realization of the human rights of women and girls.

This is more than a simple matter of improving the quality of life for half of the global population. Rather, this is a collective commitment to catalyzing the sustainable development of our society as a whole. The promotion of secondary education for adolescent girls, for instance, was proven to lead to significant reductions of HIV/AIDS infections and to faster economic growth. It can serve as the tipping point where a butterfly effect begins. UN Women’s work and leadership are required more than ever before, to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Mr. President,
My delegation would like to thank the Global Evaluation Advisory Committee for the report and valuable contribution to strengthening UN Women’s evaluation function. We cannot agree more with the Advisory Committee’s conclusion that evaluation is an integral part of UN Women’s mission.

We would also like to congratulate UN Women, in particular the Independent Evaluation Office, for the Advisory Committee’s satisfactory qualification of its work. We request that UN Women further strengthen its evaluation function, especially through decentralized evaluation and innovative partnerships with national evaluation entities.

Today, we will have a structured dialogue on financing the UN Women Strategic Plan 2014-2017. The Korean Government, recognizing that regular resources enable UN Women to fulfill its mandate by enhancing the stability and predictability of its work, last year contributed 4.17 million USD for UN Women’s core resources.

While noting that traditional donors and governments are the primary providers of UN Women’s financial resources, we commend UN Women for its efforts to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders, including new donors and private companies, for financial mobilization.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea renders its full support for UN Women and will continue working closely with all of the Executive Board members during this momentous year to further strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, nationally, regionally and globally. /End/