BRAZIL

UN-Women Executive Board
First Regular Session 2015

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota
Deputy Permanent Representative

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(Check against delivery)
Mr. President, Mme. Executive Director,

Allow me to congratulate the President and through you the newly elected members of the Board, as well as the outgoing members of the Board for their dedication. I wish to also congratulate the UN-Women Executive Director, Madam Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, for her inspiring views and leadership. Let me thank at last the UN-Women Secretariat for organizing this First Regular Session.

This session takes place at a promising and historic juncture, as we recall the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and prepare for the final stages of an ambitious, universal and transformational Post-2015 Development Agenda, on the basis of the outcome document of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As we redouble our efforts towards achieving the MDGs, while transitioning to a broader and more ambitious agenda, we have yet another opportunity to mainstream women's rights across the three dimensions of sustainable development, in accordance with the Rio+20 framework.

Mr. President,

Brazil vocally supported strong references to gender equality and women's empowerment in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the General Assembly last week.

We are convinced that the pursuit of women's rights should be a general and universal goal as well as the target of specific measures protecting and promoting women's rights as a group, and those of women in vulnerable situations, such as women of African descent and indigenous women.

Improving evaluation capacities within UN-Women is important, provided this is carried out upon request and in accordance with the principle of national ownership and the national policies and priorities defined by Members States.

We must ensure that our efforts generate coherence rather than fragmentation, and that full transparency and accountability are observed when partnerships with the private sector and foundations are undertaken. An adequate framework for follow-up and review of the Post-2015 development agenda and its system-wide implementation is crucial to this effect.

In the context of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, we commend UN Women for carrying out a comprehensive study
on the progress made and challenges remaining in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at the national, regional and global levels, in line with the mandate given by ECOSOC.

We look forward to the results of this assessment, which will provide an invaluable contribution for CSW 59 to conduct a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as a point of reference for the realization of women's rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. President,

Brazil is committed to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. In recent years, the Brazilian Government has made significant strides in income distribution, giving priority to women and children. Women are now the main beneficiaries of cash transfer programs and housing credit, an approach that has been validated by studies which indicated women make better use of resources. As a result, the positive effects of the programs themselves were enhanced.

However, this progress has not yet fully translated into a life without violence for women and girls. Brazilian data on violence against women and girls in recent years have shown there have been improvements, though levels remain unacceptably high. This demonstrates that violence against women requires a comprehensive multidimensional response. The Brazilian government is aware of these challenges and continues to look for better solutions for women to have their rights fully respected.

Brazil has adopted specific legislation and policies for combating violence against women, such as the "Maria da Penha Law", which improves judicial procedures and provides a network of service in assistance to victims. Another successful initiative has been the establishment of a public utility hotline service to provide assistance and guidance to women victims of violence, including shelters for women and their children as well as adequate support for them to rebuild their lives under better and safer conditions.

We recognize gender inequality is a persistent problem globally and our region is no exception. Building on our national efforts, we have sought to address gender issues at the regional level through establishing programs and initiatives under UNASUR and MERCOSUR, so that we are capable to build a regional front to combat gender-based violence and advance the rights of women and girls, including within the most vulnerable groups. We are also proud to have extended our South-South cooperation on gender issues far
beyond Brazilian borders, such as initiatives with Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We are pleased to note the ongoing cooperation between the Brazilian Secretariat of Policies for Women, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and UN Women, whose legal framework provide for UN Women to engage in and support the implementation of the Brazilian National Plan of Policies for Women. Government cost-sharing programs such as this encompass earmarked resources that are fully aligned with the principle of national ownership, and with the policies and priorities of developing countries. They are good examples of programs that should be preserved and more broadly expanded, especially in the case of middle-income countries, whose successful national efforts can be more easily adapted to developed and developing countries alike and thus more fully exert a systemic impact.

Brazil is pleased to have contributed financially to UN-Women for the first time in 2014. Another contribution has been recently provided by the Mission of Brazil in New York, as all men agreed to adhere to the HeforShe campaign. We look forward to further strengthening this relationship in the future in support of gender-based policies in Brazil and the world.

Finally, Mr. President,

Allow me to highlight the critical role of UN-Women in facilitating the exchange of good practices that could help us learn from each other's successes and collectively promote the advancement of women's rights. The report on the meta-analysis of evaluations in 2013, their conclusions on the need to improve data effectiveness and the respective responses of management are steps in the right direction. You can count on Brazil's constructive engagement and full support to UN-Women and its efforts in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in the context of an ambitious, transformational and universal post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you.