Thank you Mr. President.

On behalf of Bangladesh delegation, may I congratulate you on your efficient stewardship of the Board, as President of the UN-WOMEN. At the same time, I also congratulate the Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General Madam Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka for her comprehensive and insightful statement this morning. Her statement provided a detailed overview of the efforts and challenges faced by the UN-WOMEN. I also like to congratulate her able team including Madam Lakshmi Puri. UN-WOMEN is the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and is working in close collaboration with Bangladesh, the Chair of the Global forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

Mr. President,

2. The annual report of the Executive Director for 2015 and the midterm review of UN-WOMEN’s strategic plan, 2014-2017 mentioned in the report that progress achieved to date in implementing the strategic plan, challenges and lessons learned. It examines how changes in the external environment, as well as findings from the 20-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and other normative milestones impact UN-WOMEN and the implementation of the strategic plan. It is mentioned that UN-WOMEN has achieved significant results in the last two years, demonstrating its capability to make an even greater difference in the lives of women and girls, and to support the unlocking of their full potential for the benefit of all humanity. However, we thanks for progress to be sustained and enhanced, UN-WOMEN needs to tackle internal and external challenges with better position of resources.
Mr. President,

3. We know evaluation is very important to understand the effectiveness of the programme. In the Evaluation report it is mentioned that the year 2015 has seen important progress in the recognition of gender equality and women’s empowerment as being central to sustainable development. The inclusion of gender equality in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development as a stand-alone goal and integrated across all other goals elevates the strategic importance of gender-responsive evaluations. But at the same time we remind the UN-WOMEN to implement the recommendations of the evaluations has been made so far.

Mr. President,

4. Being a signatory to, CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the SDGs and as a champion of women empowerment, Bangladesh is committed to establish (1) equal rights for men and women in every sphere of the society and the state and (2) to ensure unrestricted opportunity for women in national development, political, administrative, economic, social and cultural issues. In order to facilitate the attainment of these goals, we have already formulated National Women Development Policy, 2011. Moreover, Elimination of Family Violence and Protection Act 2010 has been formulated with a view to stopping violence against women. At present, 88,000 rural mothers all over the country and 67,500 garment workers are receiving maternity allowances given to benefit poor pregnant mothers.

Mr. President,

5. Violence against women is a common phenomenon everywhere, even in rich and developed societies. The Government of Bangladesh has given high priority to ensuring protection of women against violence. Besides legal protection, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) operates a Central Cell phone to ensure coordination of work on prevention of violence against women and children and extends necessary support to the victims of violence. They maintain a helpline (10921) to provide legal, medical, rehabilitation and counselling help to victims of violence. However, the reality is, till to-date, violence is not over, discrimination between male and female still continues. Therefore, the challenges of UN-WOMEN are not over. It has to gear up its efforts in a coherent and coordinated way, to pursue for realizing 'He for She' so that it can create a global wave that will wipe out women discrimination and violence against women across all nations.
Mr. President,

6. As we all know that the critical mass of resources of US$ 520 Million, as declared by the UN Secretary-General, is the minimum level of resources that UN-WOMEN needs in order to achieve the targets of its Strategic Plan 2014-17, already endorsed by the UN-WOMEN Executive Board. We think the structured dialogue on financing as recommend by the QCPR guidelines will bring augmented flow of resources needed for future implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017. We should continue to strive to increase the volume of resources and secure long-term, predictable, flexible and less earmarked resources that are aligned with the Strategic Plan and mandate of UN-WOMEN.

7. The CSW-60, held in March this year, flagged the central role of UN-WOMEN in implementing the gender equality related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This of course puts additional pressure on this organization in terms of advocacy, programme support, and UN system wide coordination. This point also needs to be considered in the context of resource allocation.

Mr. President,

8. We would request UN-WOMEN for more focused efforts on widening and deepening its partnership base for more resources to fully implement the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and I would like to reiterate our fullest support to the UN Women in its journey towards changing the lives of millions of girls and women across the globe.

9. In this regard, Bangladesh, as the Chair of the Least Developed Countries, would like to refer to the recently concluded High-level Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs that took place in Antalya, Turkey. In the political declaration adopted by the UN Membership at the conference, significant emphasis has been given on women empowerment and gender equality. In fact, unlike previous LDC documents, an entire section has been devoted on this issue. UN-WOMEN will have the key role in advocating and implementing the recommendations, and it is important to ensure that adequate resource is assigned to them so that they can make effective contribution in this area in LDCs. UN-WOMEN also needs presence on the ground in all LDCs to help them in national and international efforts to achieve gender parity – an essential requirement for development.
Mr. President,

10. Finally, Bangladesh would like to emphasize on strong political will and effective leadership to ensure women empowerment nationally, regionally and globally. In this regards we like to share an idea. UN-WOMEN may like to introduce a "Champion Award" for women empowerment, in order to promote political will and leadership and also to demonstrate and motivate the world leaders to show how strong leadership can contribute in realizing empowerment of women.

Thank you, Mr. President.