STATEMENT

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

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Kindly check against delivery
Mr. Chairman,

1. I am pleased to deliver a few remarks under Agenda Item 2 on the progress made on UN-Women’s strategic plan 2014-2017, including its midterm review.

2. The opportunity to reflect on UN-Women’s strategic plan comes at a time when all attention is focused on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls was underscored by goal five, and mainstreamed across the other Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Women’s sustained advocacy and substantive inputs to the 2030 Agenda yielded significant results. Our delegation shares the expectation that the expectations articulated by the new agenda will be transformative and address the structural drivers of gender inequality.

3. Against this background and based on the report UNW/2016/6, Guyana commends UN-Women for the progress made thus far in fulfilling its mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the 93 countries where UN-Women has a presence. Having achieved approximately 38% success in the implementation of targets at the midpoint augers well for the remaining implementation period of the strategic plan.

4. Guyana believes that in order to achieve the goal of gender equality, more focus must be placed on the empowerment of women and girls, especially financial and economic empowerment. This focus speaks directly to the developmental aspects of women and girls that are affected in developing countries and also helps with poverty eradication. With developmental assistance, women are empowered to influence budgets and also infrastructure projects. My delegation concurs with UN-Women’s review that this is an area of focus going forward where economic empowerment can be used to leverage responses to significant challenges, especially those such as climate change.

5. In his address to the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment held last September, H.E President David Granger reaffirmed Guyana’s commitment to ensure that at the national level all critical areas which require attention to foster equality between men and women, as well as the empowerment and advancement of women are addressed.
Mr. Chairman,

6. Ending violence against women and girls remains a concern as noted in the SG’s report. Underreporting is a major constraint in this area, together with the persistence of social norms that perpetuate violence in society. Guyana is of the view that the focus on preventive measures is integral to the overall approach of addressing this issue.

7. The engagement of men and boys and fostering greater male responsibility for the achievement of gender equality has been an important focus. Engagement with youth and also the faith-based groups will be essential to create a shared commitment to respect women’s equality in society.

8. We also note that UN-Women engagement with the private sector, emphasizing its role and responsibility in advancing women’s empowerment. A viable corporate strategy will be important to leverage the potential for transformation of the private sector.

9. The strategic plan supports the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will also significantly contribute to the achievement of multiple SDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Despite its successful delivery of results overall, the report notes that UN-Women needs to improve its programmatic focus to use its limited resources strategically. This needs to be reinforced by robust operational systems that will enable UN-Women to in an efficient manner.

11. The report also goes on to highlight that UN-Women’s programme delivery is hampered by weaknesses in project design, often linked to overambitious objectives and unclear theories of change, as well as excessively short time frames and the limited scale of many projects. In the face of limited resources, this aspect will need urgent attention to ensure that country-level interventions are not thinly spread as to be rendered ineffective.
Mr. Chairman,

12. In conclusion, Guyana looks forward to the continued implementation of UN-Women’s strategic plan to support Member States in accordance with national priorities and plans and taking into account national circumstances. We look forward to working closely with UN-Women to realise the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030.

I thank you.