At the outset, I would like to thank Madame Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka for her thorough report on the progress made on the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and also for her inspiring remarks.

The impressive, all-around accomplishments of UN Women are proof that creating UN Women a half decade ago was the right decision. I would like to commend the leadership and hard work of the management team and the staff working at Headquarters and in regional and country offices across the world.

As one half of the world’s population, women and girls must be present and included everywhere on an equal basis as men and boys. However, reality does not reflect this ideal. Women disproportionately face hardships while being denied opportunities. In our shared pursuit to fix this global imbalance, UN Women’s expertise and assistance have proven indispensable, and will continue to be so.

In particular, UN Women played a critical role in catalyzing renewed political commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment during recent milestone events, including the Beijing+20 review, the fifteenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Within a very short period of time and amid numerous global crises and emergencies, UN Women managed to succeed in standing firm as an able coordinator, an accountable partner, a knowledgeable advisor and an effective operator. However, we still need to continue to take lessons learned from the past and refine our strategies for the future.

With that said, I fully agree that the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 remains relevant in the context of the SDGs. My delegation welcomes the recalibration and improvement of the results framework to better align with the SDGs. My delegation would like to see such improvement in several other specific areas, which I will now touch upon briefly.
First, drawing upon UN Women’s active role in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), UN Women needs to continue developing concrete joint gender programs in partnership with other UN agencies.

It is noteworthy in the report that there is some evidence that Delivering-as-One and the roll-out of the Standard Operating Procedures have enabled UN Women to leverage its mandate more effectively and to play a greater catalytic role at the country level. I would appreciate it if UN Women could explain in more detail what the evidence is and whether it can be expanded in terms of programme countries and target areas.

Second, given its resource constraints, UN Women has to strategically pull back from less prioritized areas. Mainstreaming gender perspective often stretches out UN Women to its limits, which can lead to too many small-scale and short-duration projects. As the Executive Director's report pointed out, UN-Women-only-projects cannot deliver transformative results. As such, my delegation reiterates its strong support for the Flagship Programming Initiatives. We look forward to the impactful implementation of this very timely initiative.

Lastly, when it comes to UN Women’s partnerships, my delegation is fully supportive of transforming “non-committed power holders”.

Men and boys, faith-based organizations and the private sector should not be seen as opponents or obstacles but rather as valuable partners in realizing a common cause. Without fully engaging them, we will never be able to achieve Planet 50:50. It is therefore important to provide convincing evidence or faith adaptive interpretations that gender equality does not harm but actually benefits them.

In conclusion, let me reiterate our full support for UN Women and its triple, synergetic mandates. When some countries incorporate new legislative measures to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, or when UN agencies design their projects to be more gender responsive, the Republic of Korea is confident that UN Women will have provided the leadership and support to make it possible. Thank you.