

**Closing remarks by the Vice-President of the
Executive Board of UN-Women, H.E. Mr. Thordur
Aegir Oskarsson, Ambassador and Deputy
Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United
Nations**

**Second Regular Session of the UN-Women Executive
Board 2022**

DATE: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m. -
1:00p.m.

LOCATION: Conference Room 3, United Nations
Headquarters, New York

- We have come to the end of this year's Second Regular Session of the UN Women Executive Board.
- I am very pleased to see that we managed to successfully consider the entire agenda in a very efficient manner without compromising the quality of our discussion in the

session. Throughout the session, we had very focused, interactive, and rich discussions on each and every agenda item. Congratulations to you all!

- I would like to thank our Bureau – the Vice Presidents and their experts in particular – for their excellent support during and in the lead up to the session. I wish to also thank profoundly the Executive Board and its observers for their steadfast engagement throughout the session and for their contribution in these meetings. I would like to thank in particular the Secretary of our Board and his able team for providing all-out support to me and to the other members of the Bureau.
- I am delighted to see the successful adoption of two decisions, namely:
 - 2022/7: Structured Dialogue on Financing the results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021; and

- 2022/8: Assessment of the Independence of the UN-Women Internal Evaluations and Audit Services (IEAS), 2022.
- I thank the delegations of Iceland and Sierra Leone for their very skillful facilitation. The experts particularly deserve our sincere appreciation for their tireless work in the consultations on four draft decisions. I am aware that this was no easy feat, and your hard work is truly appreciated. I also thank the Member States for their constructive engagement and flexibility. Thank you!
- At the opening of the session, the Executive Director reflected on her first year in office while highlighting three priorities during this period. I would like to thank her for her comprehensive statement and express appreciation to UN-Women for stepping up its contributions in crisis situations around the world and providing the essential gender lens to targeted action, and for its strengthened engagement with Member States to grow UN-Women's advocacy and policy capacities, including through its normative work.

- We also greatly appreciate that the Executive Director places great trust in the Executive Board, and I can guaranty her that the trust is reciprocal. We have immensely appreciated that the Executive Director engaged in a constructive dialogue with the Bureau on how to find together a solution to high unspent level of funding in UN-Women.
- Thank you also for reiterating your focus to pivot to the field and making sure that UN-Women can deliver for women and girls at the country level where discrimination impacts their lives.
- At the opening segment, we have heard interventions from 25 Member States, including regional and other cross-regional group statements delivered by as many PRs and DPRs, and other Ambassadorial and expert level representatives. I thank my fellow ambassadors for their kind presence in the session yesterday and for their generous support expressed to the organization itself.

- Today we have heard the briefings from the Secretariat colleagues. And I must acknowledge the quality of the presentations have been extremely rich. I would like to congratulate the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Directors Anita Bhatia and Asa Regnér, as well as all other briefers from the UN Women Secretariat for their hard work and efforts in ensuring the high quality of our deliberations.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board Secretary and his team, for all efforts made in organizing this session and for organizing several upcoming informal briefings in October, including on food security for women and girls, UN-Women's humanitarian work, and on the situation in Afghanistan and Palestine and UN-Women's engagement.
- I also would like to thank the delegations for their active participation through the briefing sessions. I believe such interactive discussions would be immensely useful for further improving the work of the organization.

- On this positive note, I would like to rest it here. I once again thank you all for your cooperation, collaboration, and support in making this a successful session!