

**Statement by the President of the Executive Board
of UN-Women, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Bangladesh to the United Nations**

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

DATE: Tuesday, 13 September 2022 **TIME:** 10:00a.m. -
13:00p.m.

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

- Madam Executive Director, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues, please allow me to welcome you all to the Second Regular Session of the UN-Women Executive Board.
- I am delighted to serve as President of the Executive Board and very pleased to be working alongside distinguished colleagues, Vice-Presidents, Amb. Fanday Turay, Amb.

Sergiy Kyslytsya, Amb. Maria del Carman Squeff and Amb. Jorundur Valtysson. The Bureau is committed to strengthening the effectiveness of the Board's oversight function for improved governance. And we will count on the support and cooperation of all.

- I would like to extend a warm welcome to Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, Ms. Sima Bahous, on behalf of the Bureau and all Member States and congratulate her on her one-year in office.
- We welcome the vision for UN-Women that you outlined earlier this year, particularly the three immediate accelerators regarding a) the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022- 2025; b) boosting UN-Women's coordination role on issues related to gender under the reformed UN development system, a point integrally linked to the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and c) a pivot to the field in order to acknowledge and respond to concerted action at country level. Rest assured, you have our full support in realizing your vision.

- I am also encouraged to see the strong resolve of the Executive Director to lead the organization in the right direction at this critical time. Her recent efforts in particular to strengthen the ethics function of UN Women, is very welcome.
- **Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,**
- Since we last met in June, global conflicts and climate change continue to greatly occupy our minds. Disasters such as the recent climate-changed floods in Pakistan exemplify once again the worsened impact of adversities on women, girls, and women with disabilities. They often face the biggest challenges including access to humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, the needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls are often distinct during disasters.
- Global conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to threaten progress on Agenda 2030. As the President of the UN-Women Executive Board, I cannot stress enough the urgent need for more gender-

responsive strategies for achieving the 2030 Agenda. What is required today is not only solidarity and global solutions, but also renewed commitment. By working together, we can ensure that women and girls around the world can exercise their full human rights.

- **Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,**
- This is what we came here to do today. This Second Regular Session is a very important one for us, since as you know, we have before us several important reports and briefings which include:
 - the Structured Dialogue for Financing;
 - the Assessment of the Independent Evaluation and Audit Services; and
 - the regional briefing on UN-Women's operational response in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Distinguished colleagues,**
- The oversight and policy guidance of the Executive Board would not be complete without actionable outcomes to our

Executive Board official meetings. We have before us two draft decisions, which I name in no particular order:

- The Structured Dialogue on Financing the results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021; and
 - The Assessment of the Independence of the UN-Women Internal Evaluations and Audit Services (IEAS), 2022.
- I would like to thank Iceland and Sierra Leone for their facilitation of these decisions, and the Secretariat for supporting these negotiations. I encourage delegations to show flexibility and understanding during these negotiations so that we can reach consensus on these outcomes.
 - I would like to take the opportunity to thank UN-Women colleagues, including the Executive Board Secretary and his team, for all efforts made in organizing several informal briefings ahead of this Session. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for organizing several 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 am counting on the Board's continued support in enabling us to maximize the time allocated to us for negotiations and look forward to a successful outcome.