

**Statement by the President of the Executive Board of UN-Women, H.E.
Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations**

First Regular Session of the UN-Women Executive Board 2023

Monday, 13 February 2023; 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ECOSOC Council, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Madam Executive Director, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues, please allow me to welcome you all to the First Regular Session of the UN-Women Executive Board.

I am honored to serve this year as President of the Executive Board and very pleased to be working alongside distinguished colleagues, Vice-Presidents, Ambassador Ms. Leonor Zalabata Torres of Colombia, Ambassador Mr. Suriya Chindawongse of Thailand, Ambassador Maurizio Massari of Italy, and Ms. Nelly Banaken Elel from the Mission of Cameroon. The Bureau is committed to strengthening the effectiveness of the Board's oversight function for improved governance.

I am committed to building on the hard work undertaken by the previous Bureaux to take the work of the UN-Women Executive Board to the next level.

Women and girls, men and boys are depending on us to deliver on the expectations that the Board and our respective regions have upon us. I count on the support of all of you.

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

This First 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 Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021;
- the Report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021;
- the regional briefing on UN-Women's operational response in Asia and the Pacific;
- an update on UN-Women's engagement with international financial institutions;
- an update on metrics used to measure progress on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;
- follow-up on the recommendations and decisions of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting; and
- an address by the Chair of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS and UN-Women Staff Council.

Distinguished colleagues,

The oversight and policy guidance of the Executive Board would not be complete without actionable outcomes to our official Executive Board meetings. At this session, we have before us draft decision 2023/1 on the financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 and Report of the Board of Auditors; and possibly decision 2023/2 on the Joint Third Party Assessment.

Please check against delivery

I would like to thank Italy for the facilitation of this decision, and the Secretariat for supporting the negotiations. I encourage delegations to show flexibility and understanding during these negotiations so that we can reach consensus on this decision.

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.

Without further ado, I am now happy to pass the floor to the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director for her opening statement. Madame Executive Director, the floor is yours.