

**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**

Annual Session of the UN-Women Executive Board 2023

Monday, 19 June 2023; 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 3, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Madame Executive Director, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues,

It is a privilege to welcome you all to the Annual Session 2023. I greatly look forward to presiding over several rewarding days of discussion and consultation, as we stay on course and work to fulfill UN-Women's triple mandate.

Please note that the Annual Session adheres to the Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN System Events. This document is of integral importance to ensure the safety of all personnel and participants during our events, including the Executive Board. You can access the code of conduct online.

I would first like to take a moment to extend my sincerest congratulations to Madame Executive Director, Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, for her excellent leadership. I am also honored to serve alongside 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 Permanent Mission of Cameroon.

As we reflect on the critical issues at hand, it is vital to acknowledge the Secretary-General's rightful emphasis that gender inequality and discrimination against women and girls are among the most profound

injustices we face as a global community. Gender inequality cuts across all major challenges of our time, from our response to the COVID-19 pandemic to the urgent need to address climate change.

In our endeavor to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, it is evident that we have significant work ahead of us in the realm of gender equality. Unfortunately, only one of the 18 indicators on SDG 5 is close to target. Progress in crucial areas such as the elimination of violence against women, ensuring access to economic resources, and enhancing the use of enabling technology requires unwavering support for the mandate of UN-Women and steadfast dedication to our effective operations.

Throughout this Session, we have before us several important reports and briefings, one of which is the Annual Report of the Executive Director. This comprehensive report delves into the implementation of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and its pivotal role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, it highlights the collaborative efforts between UN-Women and key partners within and beyond the United Nations system to effectively implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Excellencies, 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 five draft decisions, which I name in no particular order:

- The Annual Report of the Under-Secretary General/Executive Director on the Strategic Plan 2022-2025;

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- The report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2022;
- The report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022;
- The implementation of GA resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UN Development System; and
- Update on UN-Women policies and procedures to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

I would like to thank Colombia, Italy, Thailand, and Ukraine 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 also like to take this 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 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 happy to now pass the floor to the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director for her opening statement and presentation of her Annual Report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025. Madame Executive Director, the floor is yours.