



Second Regular Session of UN Women's Executive Board

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Closing Remarks

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- **Thank** the President and the vice-presidents for the leadership and guidance throughout this session and for the facilitation of the fruitful exchange with the members and observers.
- **Particularly thank** Ambassador Petersen for serving as the President of the board for the past year and for his enthusiasm, strong spirit of innovation and his long-standing commitment for gender equality.
- **Thank** all the Member States for actively participating during the Session and for their words of encouragement and support and guidance given in their statements.
- **Note that this Second Regular Session took place in an exceptional time.** In less than two weeks, the leaders of the world will gather together to formally adopt the 2030 Agenda which will need consorted efforts from everyone – and not least from UN-Women. As the new Agenda rightfully places gender equality in its core, UN-Women has to be funded for purpose to deliver on its mandate.
- **Underline that this historic normative progress and a seismic movement towards centering of GEWE in Agenda 2030 was also visible**

on this Board session. Almost all of the delegations highlighted the importance of the strong gender goal in the 2030 Agenda and as well as the key role UN-Women has played and will play in supporting Member States in turning the words into action and impact on the ground to achieve the goals with the urgency and acceleration that is committed to - within a generation promise.

- **In connection with this, delegations recognized the enhanced and strengthened mandate and need for UN-Women to have significantly increased predictable and flexible funding in order to achieve the goals - financed for purpose.**
- Note that decided by the Board a year ago, Structured Dialogue on Financing took place during this session and will continue every Second Regular Session from now on. Thank for the strong interest demonstrated by the Member States towards this process. Thank Sweden for their active role in initiating the process.
- **Underline that a transparent, participatory and inclusive dialogue on financing must and will continue throughout the year.** This is crucial for UN-Women, together with the Member States, to live up to the expectations. UN-Women will work together with the Member States to create a dialogue that will be useful for everyone.
- **Note that a decision on Structured Dialogue on Financing was adopted in this session.** Congratulate the Member States for reaching consensus on the decision and thank the facilitator (Alma Perez, Colombia) for her work.
- Thank the Member States for the guidance given to UN-Women in the decision and further thank the Member States for acknowledging the particular need to increase funding of UN-Women in the context of the 2030 Agenda.
- **Congratulate the Member States also on the second adopted decision on the Integrated Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 and the facilitator (Selma Mansouri, Algeria) for her work.**

- **Note** that the first discussion of the new integrated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 took place already in the Annual Session this year and continued during this session.
- **Stress** that the emphasis of the integrated budget continues to be on programming. Majority of the budget growth will be allocated to the field. Thank the Member States for their continuous interest towards the issue.
- **Emphasize** the great value of the agenda item that focused on UN-Women's operational response in Nepal. Women and girls were gravely affected by the disastrous earthquake and its aftermath. Together with the Government of Nepal, UN family, civil society and other development partners, UN-Women worked to ensure an adequate, consistent and sustainable integration of gender equality and women's empowerment across the humanitarian-development continuum. Thank the representative of UN-Women and the whole team in Nepal and thank those donors like Finland who have supported us in our work there in engendering of rebuilding back better.
- **Thank for the comprehensive discussion on the topic of Evaluation** (Meta-Analysis of UN-Women's Evaluations in 2014, Evaluation of UN-Women's normative support work and its operational linkages and Review of Corporate Gender Equality Evaluations in the United Nations System).
- **Thank Member States for their recognition of the good results emanated from the review of evaluations in the UN System.** We took note of your request and certainly UN-Women will share the results with other UN entities.
- **We note with satisfaction that the meta-review validated the UN-SWAP performance indicators and their underlying analysis of gaps in gender mainstreaming in the UN system.** The enactment of the CEB policy on gender mainstreaming has served the UN system to make its action more effective and focused.
- The UN-SWAP has become the unifying framework for gender mainstreaming in the UN system. Besides having become an effective analytical framework for future gender-responsive evaluations, it also strengthens efficiency by promoting synergies and streamlining action across the UN system, as repeatedly asked by Member States.

- We also welcome the acknowledgment that the momentum created by the UN-SWAP needs to be maintained and the bar raised in view of the next UN-SWAP cycle, as per the comment by the distinguished delegate of Switzerland on behalf of 12 Member States. UN-Women is ready to lead, coordinate and support the UN system in this endeavour and will start a consultative process to this end in the next months.
- **Member States stressed our quest for the gender equality policies of UN entities to permeate more their respective Strategic Plans and called for an assessment of UN entities staff performance review systems to better capture staff contributions to gender mainstreaming.** Member States also suggested to focus on implementation of guidance on gender mainstreaming.
- **With regards to the OIOS evaluation, we thank Member States for joining in the commendation of UN-Women for its remarkable achievements on strengthening the GEWE norms, standards and commitments and centring GEWE into other historic normative processes ,while recognizing that increased resources are required to more effectively on the recognizing the challenges of national implementation of international norms and standards.** We will continue to strive for ensuring greater linkages between field level operations with global policies, as well as for ensuring integration of gender focused outcomes in UNDAFs.
- **Note that the Executive Board was also briefed on the UN-Women’s youth and gender equality strategy during the session.** Young women, and young men as allies and partners, will play the key role in the realization of the 2030 Agenda and they will be the drivers of change in achieving Planet 50-50 by 2030. UN-Women’s Youth strategy will aim at empowering youth and giving them a voice. We hope that you will support the LEAP - Leadership, Economic Empowerment, Action to End Violence Against Women and programmes for young women that will be rolled out by UN-Women in all contexts.
- Emphasize that the mutual, effective and efficient work of the Bureau, the Secretary of the Board and the entire Executive Board Secretariat team in preparing and running the session has played an important role in the success of this session. **Commend the efforts to uphold a dialogue**

between the meetings through regional briefings. Intensified dialogue between the Executive Board and UN-Women is benefiting all.

- Remind the delegates that right after the Session, there will be an informal briefing on the Global Leaders' Meeting for Gender Equality: A commitment to Action, which will be organized on 27 September together with China. The briefing is in the same room.