

Closing remarks by the Executive Director

Second regular session of the UN-Women Executive Board

30 August 2017

[As delivered]

Thank you very much, Madame President. I want to start by thanking you, and the Executive Board, for the manner in which you have helped us sail through the last two days, reach a significant milestone, and give us a roadmap for the next four years.

I thank the President and her Bureau for their dedication, and for the consultations where they were able to help us facilitate between and amongst Member States. I also want to thank the staff of UN Women for their excellent work, and for their support and dedication to this work, as well as all the managers who gave their inputs to the different aspects of this Strategic Plan.

It has been a very intense nine months. It's very symbolic that it has been nine months. Thank you so much for being there to accompany us all the way.

We have noted your recommendations for the Strategic Plan and appreciated the guidance that you gave us. Some of those recommendations recurred when we were discussing the Integrated Budget, indicating that some recommendations are even stronger than others. One that stands out, for instance, is the importance of showcasing what the money for core funding buys in simple terms. We have heard this loud and clear. We have also heard that you want us to diversify and to innovate in our resource mobilization.

We noted well your recommendations on the way forward for our evaluation work following the presentation of the report, as well as your comments on the field visits. We appreciated Madame President's very interesting account of the trip. I hope it was as inspiring to the team in India as it was to all of us. I would also like to thank the other Board members that were part of the trip, as well as the staff whose work made the trip so valuable.

Thank you also for the joint visit to Nepal, and for your appreciation of the way in which we have been able to work together with other UN agencies. I thought that made it clear why the common chapter was important. I also thought that the observation of the way in which the energy FPI was implemented in India highlighted how our triple mandate works so well and how our ability to work with other partners translates in the field.

We also appreciated the presentation on Rwanda and the highlights of the work that we are doing there. It showed how sometimes with very limited resources we are able to create change that will last and can be scaled.

I want to express my appreciation also of the statements made by the representatives of Rwanda, Nepal and India, who highlighted the fact that our work is not isolated from national interests but we do actually work as partners with countries.

I also want to assure you that we have noted the recommendations that you made on the decisions that have just been adopted. I thank you again for your patience, your dedication, and your attention to detail, because every decision has been given due attention. We appreciate this emphasis, including the statements that were made.

Finally, I want to thank you for your flexibility, and for your ability to put the importance of women and girls above everything else and find a way to end this session with the critical direction we need. So when we see you for the Executive Board session next year we will be able to report on the progress that we have made, how we have transitioned from the old to the new, and how we have adjusted our work plan.

Next year we will also be able to report to you on the work that we are doing on innovation. We will try to demonstrate how the triple mandate and the management of resources all come together as we implement this Strategic Plan.

Thank you to the Board again and to you, Madame President for being such an inspirational leader.

Thank you.