

Check against delivery

Second regular session of UN-Women Executive Board

**Closing Remarks of the Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, Ms. Michelle Bachelet**

**30 November 2012
New York**

Good afternoon!

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking you for your unwavering support for UN Women. Your energy, determination and willingness to reach agreement on the decisions just adopted, will shape the future of UN Women.

Mr. President, I would like to thank you very much for your leadership in guiding this second regular session of the Executive Board. Much has been achieved over these three past three days. I know that many of you have worked well past regular hours to reach agreement.

I express my heartfelt appreciation.

Today your endorsement of the regional architecture will give UN Women the reach to fulfill our mandate, to support national efforts for gender equality and women's empowerment around the globe.

This is indeed a historic milestone in the short lifespan of UN Women, and I pay tribute to you, our Executive Board, for this achievement. It has taken many months of collaboration, consultations, and informal sessions to reach this point.

I appreciate your support in strengthening our organization as we move forward in this critical phase of institution-building. The decisions you have taken will make UN Women

even more effective and efficient in delivering results for women and girls on the ground - examples of which you saw in the video during the opening of this session on Wednesday. We all know the importance of enhancing our field presence and oversight functions, working more effectively within the entire UN system and partners including civil society to better respond to the needs of women and girls and advance gender equality.

I remain fully committed to further building our organization, enhancing accountability and transparency measures to achieve maximum impact on the ground. I appreciate your support as Board members for this important process.

You are supporting us to gain organizational maturity and to be the best that we can be. Your approval of our evaluation policy will ensure that we are held accountable for the results we deliver in every UN Women programme, project and office.

The road is long and we are not there yet.

Today you are encouraging us to arrive at a harmonized conceptual framework for cost recovery together with UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA. You are supporting our operational reserve policy and seek the methodology is re-visited after one biennium.

Accountability and transparency was given a further boost with your endorsement to publicly disclose UN Women's internal audit reports.

Decisive action was taken during these past three days and strong follow-through requires a strong resource base. I thank all governments that pledged continuing support for UN Women. And I encourage you to help us mobilize resources and to look for ways to increase contributions to UN Women, and our Trust Funds for Gender Equality and to end violence against women.

As I said in my opening speech, when there is no more gender-based violence, when women and girls have the same opportunities as men and boys, when there is peace, justice and equality, then we have created the future we want.

We are all in this together and I thank you very much for your support!