Outline of UN-Women’s Executive Director’s opening statement to the Executive Board at its Second Regular Session 2020

**Introduction**

- Thanks and acknowledgements to President and Bureau for ongoing efforts and strategic interventions to ensure that the work and the deliberations of the Executive Board becomes more strategic in their guidance and oversight function.

**10 year Anniversary of UN Women and our work in the context of COVID-19**

- A celebration of the achievements toward gender equality and the empowerment of women, and look ahead to the future, including how to alleviate the impact of the current COVID-19 crisis on women and girls, galvanize work to accelerate implementation of Beijing Platform for Action on its 25th anniversary and reminder on the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Beijing+25 on 1 October.

**Update on Generation Equality**

- Update on plans and reflection on impact of COVID-19 on inequalities and gains of the past decades.

- Re-shaping of the Generation Equality Forum
  - Regionalization and Stakeholder Engagement
  - Inter-generational leadership and the Beijing+25 Youth Task Force
  - GEF activation moments
  - Update on Action Coalitions

**Update on addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment**

- Update (per decision 2020/6) on the increased risk of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) – as well as domestic violence and limitations on accessibility and availability of survivor services.
- Reporting and investigation services for SEA and SH allegations.
• Reinforced existing SEA and SH commitments and mechanisms, work to expand and adapt gender-based violence response services to the pandemic circumstances in all UN Women duty stations.

**UN Reform/Change Agenda**

• Update on implementation of resolution 72/279, including: a client-focused approach, more effective support of field offices to deliver, service delivery and accountability to stakeholders.

• New Strategic Plan under development - as stepping-stone to align more fully behind the aims of UN Reform focusing on UN coordination, complementarity and synergies with our UN counterparts, including UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, especially at country level.

• Update on country presence and virtual decentralization initiative.

• Update including on the Secretary-General’s System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity; Field-Specific Enabling Environment Guidelines; “civil society shadow reporting” to increase transparency and accountability.

**Global Financing Environment, 2019 Financing Situation and 2020 outlook**

• Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global GDP and the disproportionate impact on women’s poverty.

• Update, including the declining share of Regular Resources compared to Other Resources; predictability of UN Women resources, including consultation to strengthen cooperation with IFIs.