

## **Closing Remarks by the President of the UN Women EB**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We have come to the end of this year's first regular session of the UN Women Executive Board.

I am very pleased to see that we managed to successfully consider the entire agenda in a very efficient manner without compromising the quality of our discussion in the session. Throughout the session, we had very focused, interactive and rich discussions on each and every agenda item. Congratulations to you all!

I would like to thank our Bureau - the Vice Presidents and their experts in particular for their excellent support during and in the lead up to the session. I wish to also thank profoundly the Executive Board and its observers for their steadfast engagement throughout the session and for their contribution in these meetings. I would like to thank in particular the Secretary of our Board and his able team for providing all-out support to me and to the other members of the Bureau.

### **Excellencies**

I am delighted to see the successful adoption of decisions 2022/1: Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 and report of the Board of Auditors and 2022/2: UN-Women policies and procedures to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

I thank the delegations of Ukraine and Iceland for their very skillful facilitation. The experts - particularly deserve our sincere appreciation for their tireless work in the consultations on two draft decisions. I am aware that this was no easy feat, and your hard work is truly appreciated. I also thank the Member States for their constructive engagement and flexibility. Thank you!

## **Excellencies**

At the opening of the session, the Executive Director outlined her vision. I thank her for her comprehensive statement, especially for reminding us of the challenges that lie ahead in meeting Goal-5 of Agenda 2030. Thank you also for highlighting the injustice and discrimination that women continue to face globally, which have been worsened by the Covid 19-pandemic.

We welcome your vision for UN-Women, particularly the three immediate accelerators, which are: a) the **implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025**; b) Boosting **UN-Women's coordination role on issues related to gender under the reformed UN development system**, a point integrally linked to the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and c) a **pivot to the field** in order to acknowledge and respond to concerted action at country level.

Madam Executive Director, rest assured, you will have our full support in realizing your vision.

As mentioned in my opening statement yesterday, we deeply appreciate the measures you already initiated to strengthen the relationship between the

Executive Board and UN Women Executive leadership. We believe this would have positive implication in forging stronger collaboration between the Board and the Organization. I look forward to working closely with the Executive Board Secretariat and the Executive Director.

## **Excellencies**

At the opening segment, we have heard interventions from **26 Member States**, including regional and other cross-regional group statements [delivered by as many as 10 PRs, 8 DPRs, and other Ambassadorial and expert level representatives. I thank my fellow ambassadors for their kind presence in the session yesterday and for their generous support expressed for the Bureau and the organization itself. [(10 delivered by PRs; 8 by DPRs).

We have seen overwhelming support among the delegations for the Executive Director, and as I have previously noted, I believe that the high level of representations is a sign of the trust and confidence in the Executive Director to lead the organization and allow it to effectively deliver its mandate. I believe that this is further justified by the first all-PR Executive Board Bureau in UN-Women's history.

Delegations have also expressed their support for UN-Women's Strategic Plan and for the Executive Director's commitment to aligning its implementation with other key priorities. The delegations also underscored the value of **UN-Women's unique triple mandate** which significantly raise UN-Women's

coordinating role the UN system on gender equality and women's empowerment.

By and large, **Member States have urged UN-Women to ensure that the Strategic Plan is fully incorporated at regional and country levels in order to leave no one behind.** The business transformation, or 'UN-Women 2.0', is also crucial for delivering on UN-Women's triple mandate and achieving impact at scale through stronger implementation at the national level.

Member States have reflected on and underscored the relevance and urgent need for discussion around the priority theme of the **upcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)** - achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies, and programmes. **I join the Executive Director in reiterating that we will count on your support and engagement during the upcoming CSW in March 2022.**

We have further heard from several delegations on the **importance of supporting gender-responsive covid recovery, engaging women and girls in sports** as well as in science and also in prioritizing protection of women and girls in vulnerable situations.

Excellencies

Today we have heard the briefings from the secretariat colleagues. And I must acknowledge the quality of the presentations have been extremely rich. I would

like to congratulate the Executive Director, the deputy executive directors Anita Bhaita and Asa Regner, and other briefers from the UN Women Secretariat for their hard work and efforts in ensuring the high quality of our deliberations.

I also thank the delegations for their active participation through the briefing sessions. I believe such interactive discussions would be immensely useful for further improving the work of the organization.

On this positive note, I would like to rest it here. I once again thank you all for your cooperation, collaboration and support in making this first regular session a success.

I thank you all.

I hereby declare close the FRS of the UN-Women 2022.