

**Statement by the President of the Executive Board of UN-Women, H.E.  
Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
Ukraine to the United Nations**

**Second Regular Session of the UN-Women Executive Board 2023**

Tuesday, 12 September 2023; 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 3, United Nations Headquarters, New York

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Good morning, Madame Executive Director, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, and colleagues,

I am very pleased to welcome you to this year's Second Regular Session of the UN-Women Executive Board.

Please note that the Second Regular Session adheres to the Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN System Events. This document is of integral importance to ensure the safety of all personnel and participants during our events, including the Executive Board. You can access the code of conduct online.

I am delighted to serve as President of the Executive Board and very pleased to be working alongside distinguished colleagues, Vice-Presidents Amb. Ms. Leonor Zalabata Torres of Colombia, Amb. Mr. Suriya Chindawongse of Thailand, Amb. Mr. Maurizio Massari of Italy, and Ms. Nelly Banaken Elel from the Permanent Mission of Cameroon.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, Ms. Sima Bahous, on behalf of the Bureau and all Member States and congratulate her on nearing her two-years in office.

Madam Executive Director, we welcome the vision for UN-Women that you outlined at the Annual Session earlier this year. Your vision, encompassing the normative, coordination, and operational dimensions of our mandate, is a resounding testament to the Entity's commitment to fostering gender equality and driving progress across the Sustainable Development Goals. Rest assured; you have our full support in realizing this framework.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,**

Since our last gathering in June, the enduring obstacles arising from global conflicts and climate change have once again demonstrated their heightened consequences on women and girls, who frequently encounter significant hardships, including barriers to humanitarian aid and unique requirements during such emergencies. These challenges persistently undermine progress towards Agenda 2030, with only one of the 18 indicators on SDG 5 nearing its target.

As President of the UN-Women Executive Board, I stress the immediate need for gender-responsive strategies to advance the 2030 Agenda. At this critical juncture, our imperative extends beyond mere unity; it calls for a revitalized commitment to our objectives. Through concerted collaboration, we hold the capacity to safeguard the human rights of women and girls and paving the way for a more equitable and just world.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,**

The oversight and policy guidance of the Executive Board would not be complete without actionable outcomes to our Executive Board official meetings. We have before us three draft decisions, which I name in no particular order:

- Decision 2023/8 on the Report on the Integrated Budget estimates for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium 2024–2025;
- Decision 2023/9 on the Report on the Structured Dialogue on Financing the Results of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025; and
- Decision 2023/10 on the Report on the UN-Women Ethics Function for 1 April-30 June 2023.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the delegations from Cameroon, Italy and Ukraine for their facilitation of these decisions, and the Secretariat for supporting these negotiations. I call upon all delegations to demonstrate flexibility and understanding during these discussions, enabling us to reach consensus on these outcomes.

I would like to acknowledge the diligent efforts of UN-Women colleagues, including the Executive Board Secretary and his team, for their organization of this session, as well as several informal briefings scheduled in the fall, covering topics such as UN-Women's humanitarian strategy, private sector engagement, gender parity, and disability inclusion.

I trust in the continued support of the Board in maximizing our negotiation time and I anticipate a successful culmination of the session.

Without further ado, I am now happy to pass the floor to the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director for her opening statement. Madame Executive Director, the floor is yours.