



PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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OPENING STATEMENT

by H.E. Ms. Ivana Pajević

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On the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board

of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

“New York 10^h September 2018”

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Your Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the Second Regular Session of the UN Women Executive Board. This is the last official session for 2018. It is my turn to thank you all as President of UN Women Executive Board, which was a great experience for my country, Montenegro, and me. It is also additional motivation for me to be a strong advocate for UN Women that continues to make difference for rights of women and girls in every corner of our world. Over this year, we had a sincere dialogue, advice and the exchange of views and I would like to thank the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Directors and other UN-Women colleagues for it. I must express my thankfulness to the Secretary of the Executive Board and his amazing team for their unreserved support over the last two years. They have made this experience so pleasant and fulfilling. Everyday, I learned from you.

Your Excellences,

Full protection against violence and discrimination, and empowerment of women through access to education, labor markets, and participation in social and political institutions are indispensable for successful eradication of extreme poverty, for sustainable development and peace. Our strong commitment is essential to open real opportunities for women and girls. Only when countries pursue gender equality agenda and use the potential of all women and girls, they can generate sufficient funds to reinforce success across the 2030 Agenda.

Distinguished colleagues,

Today the Executive Board will discuss structured dialogue on financing, preliminary analysis on implications of the resolution 72/279, evaluation and working methods. Throughout the session, we will also receive a briefing on Afghanistan, and a presentation on UN-Women’s field visits to Uganda and Malawi.

We will dedicate the most of today’s discussion to the structured dialogue on financing. The dialogue allows UN-Women to monitor, assess and follow up on the level of funding it receives. It contributes to predictability, flexibility and alignment of financial resources provided for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

In a recent bureau meeting we discussed the need to strengthen participatory approach of this dialogue. In 2019 we would like to have regular informal meetings between the UN-Women and member states on the financing of the organization. We also need to consider the complementarity of the UN-Women structure dialogue on financing with similar processes in other Funds and Programmes, and with the proposed "Funding Compact" at the UN System level.

The landmark resolution on the Repositioning the UN Development System to deliver on 2030 Agenda sets the foundations for the most ambitious and comprehensive transformation of the System. The more efficient UN, relevant and more responsive to emerging challenges and needs is in our common interest. It is very encouraging that UN-Women's strategic plan 2018-2021 is well aligned to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the proposed changes contained in the Resolution 72/279. We welcome the comprehensive background paper of UN Women that illustrates some of the implications of resolution 72/279. Leadership of UN-women in this process is commendable.

We support the vision of the Executive Director on the proposed changes and are looking forward for further analysis in 2019 on further implications that these reforms will have on UN-Women. UN-Women's collaborative evidence-based approach is welcomed, including the work on the common chapter with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, which positions UN-Women well to support system-wide strategic initiatives.

The UN-Women Executive Board is appreciative of the excellent working relations with UN-Women in this process, and we are looking forward to the briefing on the background paper and discussion of the preliminary analysis.

Distinguished colleagues,

Tomorrow we will present the report of the Joint Field Visit of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, WFP and UN-Women to Uganda and UN-Women Field Visit to Malawi.

As I stated on many occasions, during these field visits I was pleased to witness the UN Women's ability to leverage its unique mandate and to work together with other UN agencies, governments, development partners and various stakeholders in promoting human rights, even in the most challenging environments. I learnt with enthusiasm how UN Women was implementing a human rights based approach to all programmes and was committed to leave no one behind. Many complex challenges are ahead and progress is even and slow but I am convinced that UN Women is well positioned and it will put additional efforts in tackling them, including through new and strengthened partnership with different stakeholders.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to touch upon the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as an important issue in the UN system at large. The recent case of sexual harassment at the UN Women is striking and worrisome. I would like to assure the Executive Director of the full support of many member states in ensuring that investigations of such cases are fair but also swift and victim centered. We need to

ensure that sexual harassment and all forms of harassment are rooted out of the UN structures in the most effective manner. The UN and UN-Women stands for human rights and global justice, without room for this type of behavior. We are looking forward to the victim-centered analysis of the processes within UN-Women looking at cases of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, to be presented at the Board in 2019. I would like to assure the Executive Director that Executive Board President and Vice-Presidents will provide support if similar cases arise in the future while respecting the legal and confidentiality frameworks of such investigations.

Excellences,

Even after my Presidency of the UN Women Executive Board I will continue to be an advocate and positive voice for UN-Women and their very important work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women has what it needs to support development change and further advancement of women agenda.

With my fellow Executive Board Presidents of UN agencies I will continue to thrive towards a strengthened collaboration between the Executive Boards and the alignment of our working methods. We are all in this together. With the UN Women leadership and drive, its capacity for reinvention we do have a winning card for meeting challenges to our societies.

The real changes that we've made are not enough. We are not yet where we need to be. We must continue gathering around gender equality and women and girls' empowerment and I strongly believe that we will succeed.

I am here because I am convinced that we can and we must work together. We need full dedication, commitment and strong engagement of everyone. This is the only way to pursue gender equality agenda and use the potential of all women and girls. And, it is the only way to successfully implement UN system reform and 2030 Agenda, and transform the way we live for generations to come, which I am sure we will achieve together.

Thank you!