



## BANGLADESH

---

*Please check against delivery*

### Statement by

**H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the Annual Session of the  
Executive Board of UN-WOMEN**

**New York, 29 May 2012**

---

Thank you Mr. President:

Mr. President,

Allow me to also join previous speakers in expressing our deep appreciation to the Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, Madam Bachelet for her comprehensive statement earlier this morning and for the Annual report on the Strategic Plan: performance and results for 2011. Her statement has provided a detailed overview of efforts made by UN-Women during its formative and indeed, most challenging year not only to establish the foundations of a strong organization but also to live up to its unique mandate in making the link between normative and operational activities real and dynamic. We applaud UN-Women for making these possible and achieving so much during the first year of its existence.

We note with appreciation that during the reporting year, the newest UN entity has developed its financial regulations and rules, four budgets, the strategic plan and the strategic framework as well as successfully obtained the endorsement by intergovernmental bodies. It had mobilized necessary human resources and identified challenges, particularly in the areas of operations and management. It has also initiated actions to strengthen efficiency, transparency, accountability and value for stakeholders. We are happy to learn that the capacities of field offices in 33 countries and areas were strengthened on the basis of a field capacity assessment. Results-based plans and associated budgets were prepared for all UN-Women country offices, greatly improving the foundation for results and reflecting the strategic plan's focus on the country level. My delegation had the opportunity to witness UN-Women's activities in the Regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America in course of different Executive Boards' field visits to those regions during 2011 and 2012.

Mr. President,

I on behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and on my personal behalf express our sincerest thanks to the Executive Director Madam Bachelet, for her outstanding leadership. As the first incumbent she has set the right tone for the organization which has made UN-women more focused, strategic and systematic in order to achieve greater results across the board in the core areas of its mandate during the reporting year. Her leadership style has facilitated rapid internal development and change in the organization and enabled the UN-Women to achieve results at the intergovernmental, global, regional and country levels.

Mr. President,

During the reporting year, we have witnessed the UN-Women actively contributing to a number of significant intergovernmental normative processes highlighting gender equality. The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul, Turkey from 9-13 May 2011 was one of these processes. My delegation had also seen UN-women actively involving itself with the ECOSOC processes during 2011 when we were managing the Coordination Segment of the Annual substantive Session as the Vice President of ECOSOC. With active support from UN-Women, we had submitted two gender related draft resolutions to ECOSOC Coordination Segment and after deliberations, the member states adopted Resolution: Resolution 2011/5 "The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed development goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women" and 2011/6 "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system."

The resolutions, *inter alia*, call upon UN Women, in its leading role, to promoting system-wide accountability on the work of the UN system at all levels, through an approach that strengthens the linkages between the gender equality work and the empowerment of women to a broader development agenda. We would expect UN-Women to play an increasingly greater role to promote issues related to the gender equality and women empowerment in the coming days. The Rio+20 conference provides an important opportunity in this regard. We are very happy to note that the UN-Women has actively engaged itself with the Rio+20 and other processes which include the preparations for Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

Mr. President,

Let me make three very specific comments on the report. Firstly, in view of the challenges on the grounds, we will call upon the Executive Director to soon share with us a revised results framework. Secondly, we will expect that UN-Women leadership to put in place adequate institutional mechanism to enable the entity in adequately

addressing the specific challenges that exist in various regions like South Asia which house the largest group of marginalized women. Thirdly, we would also call upon the Development Partners to increase their contributions to enable UN -Women to fulfill it's mandated roles.

Mr. President,

Despite being a Least developed Country, Bangladesh has been making regular pledges to UN-Women. Being a signatory to the MDGs, CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and as a champion of women empowerment, Bangladesh is committed to (a) establish equal rights for men and women in every sphere of the society and the state and (b) ensure unrestricted opportunity for women in all kinds of activities involving national development, policy making, and political, administrative, economic, social and cultural issues. In order to facilitate the attainment of this goal, we have already formulated **National Women Development Policy, 2011**. Moreover, **Elimination of Family Violence and Protection Act 2010** has been formulated with a view to stopping violence against women. At present, 88,000 rural mothers all over the country and 67,500 garment workers are receiving maternity allowances given to benefit poor pregnant mothers.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, allow me to share with the distinguished members of the Executive Board two news stories which symbolize the courage, dignity, and potentials of the women. In last two weeks, three women have climbed the Mount Everest, the Peak of the mighty Himalayas. Two of them are young Women from Bangladesh namely Nishat Mazumdar and Wafsia Nazrin, the first Bangladeshi females to conquer the Mt Everest. The other one is a 73-year old Tamae Watanabe from Japan. They are not only our pride, they have proved that given the opportunity, women are also capable in achieving what only men were otherwise seen to achieve in the past.

As we deliberate here today, let us pledge to work together in upholding the dignity of such women and also creating more opportunities for others. In this regard, let the UN-Women lead us in the journey towards changing the lives of millions of girls and women across the globe.

I thank you, Mr. President.