Thank you Mr. President.

On behalf of Bangladesh delegation, may I congratulate you on your efficient stewardship of the Board, as President of the UN-Women. At the same time, I also congratulate the Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General Madam Phumzile for her comprehensive statement. Being the Chair of the Global forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), we are pleased to mention that UN-Women as the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG) is working in close collaboration with Bangladesh.

Mr. President,

2. The annual report of the Executive Director for 2016 mentioned that progress achieved to date in implementing the strategic plan, challenges and lessons learned. It examines also how UN-Women faced several challenges such as resource constraints, the gender funding gap, and the need to support programmes with effective operational systems, to continue to allow for delivery that is on time, on scope and on budget — all necessary elements for the full and effective implementation of the strategic plan. Reaffirming the commitment of ‘leaving no one behind’, we emphasized for collective and coherent results-based actions and innovative financial solutions which are essential in ensuring gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the UN-Women.

Mr. President,

3. We know evaluation is very important to understand the effectiveness of the programme. In the Evaluation report it is mentioned that the UN-Women Independent Evaluation Office undertook a corporate thematic evaluation of the UN-Women contribution to United Nations system coordination on gender equality and the empowerment of Women (GEEW). The main purpose of the evaluation was to inform strategic decision-making, organizational learning and accountability, as well as generating knowledge on what works and what doesn’t in key aspects of UN coordination to advance GEEW at global, regional and country levels. The evaluation has identified eight recommendations that are critical for UN-Women’s future contribution to UN coordination. Many factors that affect UN-Women’s ability to implement its UN coordination mandate are inherent to the UN system and lie outside UN-Women’s sphere of influence, like the effects of chronic underfunding for UN-Women. We hope that the recommendations are to be taken care of by the UN-Women as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

4. Being a signatory to, CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the SDGs and as a champion of Women empowerment, Bangladesh is committed to establish (1) equal rights for men and Women in every sphere of the society and the state and (2) to ensure unrestricted opportunity for Women in national development, political, administrative,
economic, social and cultural issues. In order to facilitate the attainment of these goals, we have already formulated National Women Development Policy, 2011.

Mr. President,

5. As we all know that the critical mass of resources of US$ 500 Million, as declared by the UN Secretary-General, is the minimum level of resources that UN-Women needs in order to achieve the targets of its Strategic Plan 2014-17, already endorsed by the UN-women Executive Board. We apprehend that the growing funding gap in regular resources will have on UN-Women’s ability to effectively and efficiently implement its strategic plan in its integrity and to deliver on all three aspects of its mandate: normative support, UN coordination and operational activities.

The Board of Auditors noted that UN-Women spent $314.97 million against total revenue of $318.99 million for the year ended 31 December 2015. This reflects that the critical mass of resources for the UN-Women yet to be achieved. So UN-Women’s need to be engaged in structured dialogue with a view to monitoring and following up on the level of funding, in particular of regular resources, as well as the predictability, flexibility and alignment of other resources provided for the implementation of the strategic plan, 2014-2017.

Mr. President,

6. Violence against Women is a common phenomenon everywhere, even in rich and developed societies. The Government of Bangladesh has given high priority to ensuring protection of Women against violence. Besides legal protection, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) operates a Central Cell to ensure coordination of work on prevention of violence against Women and children and extends necessary support to the victims of violence. We hope realization of 'He for She' and other Campaigns can create a global wave that will wipe out discrimination and violence against Women across all nations.

Mr. President,

7. In this regard, Bangladesh, as the Chair of the Least Developed Countries, would like to refer to the recently concluded High-level Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs that took place in Antalya, Turkey. In the political declaration adopted by the UN Membership at the conference, significant emphasis has been given on Women empowerment and gender equality. In fact, unlike previous LDC documents, an entire section has been devoted on this issue. UN-Women will have the key role in advocating and implementing the recommendations, and it is important to ensure that adequate resources are assigned to them so that they can make effective contribution in this area in LDCs. UN-Women also needs presence on the ground in all LDCs to help them in national and international efforts to achieve gender parity – an essential requirement for development.

Mr. President,

8. Finally, Bangladesh would like to emphasize on strong political will and effective leadership to ensure Women empowerment nationally, regionally and globally. In this regards we like to share an idea. UN-Women may like to introduce a "Champion Award" for Women empowerment, in order to recognize leadership and also to demonstrate and motivate the world leaders to show how strong leadership can contribute in realizing empowerment of women.

Thank you, Mr. President.