



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
First Regular Session 2013 of the Executive Board of UN-WOMEN
New York, 23 January, 2013**

Thank you Mr. President:

Mr. President,

Allow me to also join previous speakers and congratulate you for your election as the president and also the newly elected Vice Presidents of the UN Women Executive Board.

Mr. President,

I on behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and on my personal behalf, I express our sincere thanks to the Executive Director Madam Bachelet, for her outstanding leadership and for her comprehensive statement and Annual Report on Operational Activities for 2013. We note with appreciation that 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 80 countries and areas were strengthened on the basis of a field capacity assessment. Results-based plans and associated budgets I understand, 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.

Mr. President,

We have witnessed the UN-Women actively contributing to a number of significant intergovernmental normative processes highlighting gender equality. For example, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul in

2011, Rio+20 and QCPR process last year. My delegation had also seen UN-women actively involving itself with the ECOSOC processes 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 got two gender related draft resolutions passes by the member states and they are: Resolution 2011/5 entitled “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. It is our hope that UN-Women will proactively engage itself in the ongoing debates on Post-2015 agenda.

Mr. President,

Let me make three very specific comments on the report. First, in view of the challenges on the grounds, we will call upon the Executive Director to soon share with us a revised results framework. Second, 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. Third, 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 establish (1) equal rights for men and women in every sphere of the society and the state and (2) 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 these goals, 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, may I applaud the UN-Women for organizing a special event on Early Child and Girls Marriage that opened up our eyes and ears and jolted our mind to act to stop child marriage? I would also like to invite all of you to a side-event titled "Empowering Girls through Education: Pathway to eliminate violence against child marriage" being organized by Bangladesh Mission with other stakeholders during the upcoming CSW week on March 13 at 1:15 PM in the Conference Room # D (NLB) and to share with the distinguished members of the Executive Board two news stories that symbolize the courage, dignity, and potentials of the women. Last year, 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. This is not the last, Ms. Wafsia Nazrin very recently has climbed up the tallest mountain peak Aconcagua of Argentina and also the Kilimanjaro of Africa continent. 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.