Thank you, Mr. President.

01. On behalf of Bangladesh delegation, I congratulate you on your election, as President of the UN-Women and the newly elected Board members. We also deeply appreciate the Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General Madam PhumzileMlambo-Ngcuka for her able stewardship of the UN Women and thank her for her comprehensive and insightful statement this morning. Her statement provided a detailed overview of the challenges and efforts faced by the UN-Women.

Mr. President,

02. Women, especially those in the least developed countries, appear more vulnerable in the face of poverty, economic crisis, conflicts, environmental degradation due to climate change, disasters and diseases. Many countries are lagging behind in ensuring protecting and promoting women rights. It has been very timely that the centrality of gender equality and empowerment of women in development has been recognized by the 2030 Agenda as well as the Paris Agreement. The success of the Agenda will largely depend on the realization of the SDG 5.

03. In Bangladesh, we attach the highest importance to achieving gender equality and women empowerment. We realize that our development objectives cannot be achieved if we leave behind our womenfolk who account for a half of the population. With this in view, our government, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is taking concrete steps to improve the status of women in our country. Our success in MDGs particularly on women issues earned us accolades. We are equally committed to implement the SDGs. As a recognition, for the advancement of Women, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was awarded Planet 50-50 Champion" by UN-Women and "Agent of Change Award" by Global Partnership Forum on 21 September, 2016.
Mr. President,

04. We consider the UN Women as a trusted partner in our efforts. We commend UN Women for its efforts towards the increased women participation in politics, their economic empowerment, elimination of violence against women, increased involvement of women into peace, security and humanitarian actions, integrating women with governance and national planning and so forth. We are happy that 12 flagship initiatives of the UN Women would contribute directly to achieving 14 SDGs.

We deeply appreciate that UN Women has been working with a wide range of partners to end discrimination and support empowerment of women and girls to bring gender equality concerns into national priorities such as climate change, disaster preparedness, migration and social protection.

Mr. President,

05. We have a new QCPR before us that provides the UNDS strategic guidelines to align its work with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. The Strategic Plan 2018-21 of UN Women should be guided by the new QCPR. The Strategic Plan should mainstream the 2030 Agenda. In alignment with the Agenda, the Strategic Plan should reflect prioritization of the least developed countries in the work of the UN Women in supporting them to implement the 2030 Agenda as well as the Istanbul Programme of Action. UN Women must take an organizational approach to support countries in having access to science, technology, innovation and knowledge management that would contribute to the strengthening of national capacities.

Mr. President,

05. Finally, adequate quantity and high-quality of funding is critical for the success, sustainability and continuity of the UN Women. We would request UN-Women for more focused efforts on expanding its partnership base for more resources to fully implement the Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Bangladesh reaffirms its support to the UN Women in delivering its mandate effectively and efficiently.

I thank you Mr. President.