



MALAWI

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Permanent Mission of Republic of Malawi,**

**UN Women Executive Board
First Regular Session 23-24 January 2013**

On ITEM 2: Operational activities

New York, January 23, 2013

Check against delivery

Mr. President of the Executive Board
Madam Executive Director
Excellences
Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the outset my delegation heartily congratulates you on your election as the President of the Executive Board in 2013. I congratulate my fellow bureau members on their election to the 2013 bureau of the UN Women. I thank my fellow board members for the confidence they have shown in electing Malawi to serve you on the bureau this year.
2. I wish to commend you Mr. President for the manner in which you are conducting these proceedings. My delegation also thanks the Under-Secretary-General Executive Director of the UN Women, Madam Michelle Bachelet for her inspiring opening statement. We would also like to express our gratitude to the former President, Ambassador Kim Sook for his leadership.
3. Additionally, my delegation would like to thank the USG and the Secretariat of the Executive Board team for the great attention to detail in the preparations for the 2013 sessions of the executive board. Malawi is sitting on the executive board and serving on the bureau for the first time and appreciates all efforts that are being made to make our contribution to the work of the Executive Board and Bureau effective, efficient, and mutually beneficial.
4. Malawi commends UN Women - the new comer in the UN family - for the progress, lucidly highlighted in the operational activities report. It is a indeed a pleasure to see the agency under Madam Bachelet's leadership, growing up and coming of age. While the agency took on the mammoth task of defining itself and wading through the dictates of its mandate, these exercises of looking back are healthy and serve as helpful speed bumps in any organization.

Mr. President,

5. As the Operational activities report (which my delegation takes note of and welcomes) points out the Entity became operational on 1 January 2011, with a mandate to lead, coordinate and promote the accountability of the United Nations system in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its creation lies at the heart of system-wide coherence on gender equality, and represents a major step forward in aligning and enhancing the response of the United Nations to accelerating gender equality and women's empowerment.

6. My delegation appreciates that in the agency's continued desire to strengthen its institutional capacity by the end of 2011, adopted a three-pillar structure covering: (a) partnerships, coordination and intergovernmental work; (b) programme and policy; and (c) management and administration. The Executive Board endorsement of the regional architecture at its 2012 second regular session last November, has consequently allowed UN Women to finalize the changes needed to respond to the universal mandate and strategic plan of the agency.
7. We are pleased to take note that the ratio between core and non-core contributions exceeded parity, at \$125 million for core contributions and \$102 million for non-core contributions and that both core and non-core resources increased in comparison with 2010. This is commendable and a testimony to the Entity making a noticeable footmark on the development arena.
8. Likewise, we would further wish to commend the UN Women leadership and the entire Entity staff for being a team player in the Roadmap to the integrated budget: Joint UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF review process. This is crucial in making the process a truly joint venture.

Mr. President,

9. Turning to my own Malawi, my country has since April last year, a female president. Her Excellency Mrs. Joyce Banda is Africa's second female president. Gender equality and the economic and political empowerment of women, maternal and newborn health care and a variety of other social issues relating to women are at the center of concern in President Banda's Administration. There are a myriad of challenges impacting on my country and underlies the possibility that Malawi may not attain targets set in a number of MDGs including MDGs 3 and MDGs 5.
10. This caused my Government to make a special request to UN Women to consider setting up a country office.
11. Malawi wishes to report that the UN Women Malawi offices opened in September 2012 and to date is playing a proactive role in supporting, among others, the dissemination of the Gender Equality Bill, and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign. Furthermore, the Malawi Government also reports that currently it is working with UN Women on a programme on Malawi participation to the CSW57 scheduled to take place in March this year.

12. The UN Women Malawi has also supported the launch of the UN Secretary General's UNiTE to end Violence Against Women and Girls with the Harvey Davidson Bikers who rode from South Africa via Namibia, Botswana and Zambia to Malawi. Commitments were signed on the banner they carried and they conducted sessions in the country's two major cities Lilongwe and Blantyre.

Mr. President,

13. Malawi shares with UN Women in its vision for change and therefore highly appreciates UN Women's continuing to use the PaperSmart initiative that is in line with the Secretary-General's objective of increasing efficiency and provision of e-services to Member States. This initiative will not only help in making the United Nations "greener" and working toward the goals of Rio plus 20 but it will also significantly cut administrative costs of the UN Women Executive Board. My delegation is heartened to learn of the estimated \$100,000.00 savings the agency made during the last session when it introduced the PaperSmart initiative. We also understand that UN Women will redirect the funds from this massive administrative savings to improving the lives of women and girls at the country level. We are also encouraging inter-agency cooperation on this initiative, as we understand Funds and Programmes such as UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP are also following UN-Women's successful model.

14. I thank you for your attention.