



Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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23 and 24 January 2013
Item 1 of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters

Report of the second regular session of 2012, 28 to 30 November 2012

I. Introduction

1. The second regular session of 2012 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) was held at United Nations Headquarters from 28 to 30 November 2012.
2. The President of the Executive Board, Kim Sook (Republic of Korea), opened the session. He commended the achievements made by UN-Women since it became operational two years ago and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director for her commitment and dedication to the Entity, particularly her leadership in building a “strong and dynamic organization with clear goals and strategies”. The President noted that as a result of the Rio+20 Conference, held in June 2012, awareness had been raised on the significance of mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment into the international sustainable development agenda.
3. On enhancing effectiveness and efficiency, the President remarked that this was the first ever PaperSmart session of the UN-Women Executive Board and expressed appreciation to the Entity for adopting this innovative way of working, in accordance with the overall guidance of the Secretary-General for a greener United Nations system. The President concluded by introducing a video portrayal of UN-Women at work, highlighting examples of partnerships and the impact being made on the lives of women and families around the world.
4. Following with her opening remarks, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director paid tribute to the staff of UN-Women and acknowledged the support received from within the United Nations, from Member States and members of the Executive Board of UN-Women. She thanked the Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services of the Secretariat for working closely and effectively with UN-Women. In presenting the main documents to the Board, she focused on some of the strategic results achieved in 2012, primarily within the core priority areas of UN-Women.

* UNW/2013/L.1.



5. She noted that efforts were being made not only to ensure that results were institutionalized at all levels of the Organization but also to build stronger institutional accountability for gender equality globally. She underlined the need for UN-Women to position itself through a strong field presence “to drive United Nations system coordination and strategic partnerships; to institutionalize a strong culture of results-based management and evaluation; to enhance organizational effectiveness and accountability; and to strengthen institutional capacity to deliver”.

6. The head of the Entity stated that the report on the overall administrative, functional and budgetary implications of the regional architecture, including an implementation plan (UNW/2012/10), had been prepared in consultation with the Executive Board, following the initial presentation of the regional architecture to the Board at its annual session of 2012 (UNW/2012/5), and in response its decision 2012/4. The report, similar to all others at the current session, was developed in close collaboration with the Board. In outlining the proposed regional architecture, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director noted that its key objective was to strengthen the work of UN-Women in the field to support national ownership of women’s empowerment and gender equality. She noted that at its core, the regional architecture would allow UN-Women to make the changes needed to move beyond the inherited structure and business processes to a structure that responds to the universal mandate and strategic plan of the Entity.

7. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director introduced to the Board for its consideration proposals for the principles, criteria and procedures that should guide the use of cost recovery income, taking into account the harmonized cost recovery policies and methodologies used by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as requested by the Executive Board in its decision 2011/5. The report (UNW/2012/13) provided an update on the progress made by UN-Women and the above-mentioned United Nations funds and programmes towards achieving a harmonized cost recovery policy. Pertinent inter-agency workshops and discussions, in which UN-Women took part, are under way, and a joint proposal on cost recovery is expected to be presented during the first session of the UN-Women Executive Board in 2013.

8. The head of the Entity added that a report on the proposed methodology for calculating and maintaining an operational reserve for UN-Women was also before the Board for review in accordance with financial regulation 19.2 (a) of the financial regulations and rules of the Entity, in addition to a report on the regional architecture. The three reports (UNW/2012/10, UNW/2012/13, UNW/2012/14) were before the Executive Board for consideration in conjunction with the related report of the Advisory Committee of Administrative and Budgetary Questions (UNW/2012/11) and the respective UN-Women management response.

9. In paragraph 2 of its decision 2012/5, the Executive Board requested that an evaluation policy for UN-Women be presented for consideration at its second regular session of 2012. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director underscored that the UN-Women evaluation policy supported the overall quality of programmes of the Entity in addition to its credibility being of central importance to accountability, learning, and decision-making. The policy, consistent with international standards for evaluation and adapted to the characteristics and mandate of UN-Women, had been developed following a review of existing evaluation policies in the United Nations

system, and had benefited from a wide range of consultations and peer reviews of the evaluation function and the existing evaluation culture in UN-Women. It outlined the principles and standards that guide evaluation practice, such as national ownership, transparency, independence and credibility. The head of the Entity also noted that this policy covered the coordination role of UN-Women for United Nations system-wide evaluation on gender equality, as well as corporate and decentralized evaluation of the operational, normative support and coordination work undertaken by UN-Women.

10. With regard to the report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011 (UNW/2012/15), the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director mentioned that UN-Women had established an independent audit advisory committee that had met for the first time on 25 October. The Committee comprises five experts from academia, the United Nations and civil society. She stated that UN-Women would further strengthen accountability and transparency measures through the upcoming public disclosure of internal audit reports, in harmonization with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

11. In concluding, she reminded the Board that UN-Women was currently closely associated with three important topics of discussion: the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, the upcoming 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2013, and the Rio+20 follow-up on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 agenda. She called on Board members to not only support UN-Women but also “to be champions for gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

II. Organizational matters

12. The Executive Board elected a new Vice-President to its Bureau, Pille Kesler (Estonia), representing the group of Eastern European States.

13. The Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2012 (UNW/2012/L.4), agreed on the workplan for the session as presented by the Secretary of the Bureau of the Board, and approved the report on its annual session of 2012, held from 29 May to 1 June (UNW/2012/9).

14. The Executive Board adopted five decisions, 2012/6, 2012/7, 2012/8, 2012/9 and 2012/10 (see UNW/2012/16).

15. The Executive Board also approved the proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session of 2013, to be held from 23 to 24 January 2013 as set out in the annex to the present report, and discussed the draft annual workplan for 2013 in preparation for its adoption at the first regular session of 2013.

16. The Executive Board was advised of the postponement until further notice of the informal briefing on the financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2011 and the report of the Board of Auditors: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (A/67/5/Add.13 and Corr.1).

III. Regional architecture

17. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme presented the regional architecture report (UNW/2012/10). He referred to the new regional architecture as key to enhance the delivery of more effective results for women and girls around the world. He noted the year-long process had involved intensive consultations with the Board, several stakeholders and staff.

18. Most speakers voiced their support for the new regional architecture. Many expressed appreciation for the decentralized structure, which would allow UN-Women to strengthen its field presence, build local capacity, provide services more efficiently and work more effectively within the United Nations system and with partners, including civil society, in order to better respond to the needs of women and girls and advance gender equality. Delegations drew attention to the role of UN-Women in the “Delivering as one” initiative. Some delegations welcomed the system-wide action plan for gender equality under the leadership of UN-Women and called for its full implementation as soon as possible, urging all parts of the United Nations system to use the action plan effectively. One speaker underlined the importance of ensuring that women are fully represented in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

19. Speakers noted that the new regional architecture would allow UN-Women not only to respond to national priorities in a timely manner but also to foster deeper understanding of local customs and social norms. It would also facilitate more effective cooperation between the Entity and other United Nations agencies and actors on the ground. A speaker urged that UN-Women enhance cooperation with the World Bank and other regional development banks.

20. Some delegations stressed that the regional architecture implementation process should occur with minimal disruption to existing operations, especially at the country level, and the need to avoid adverse impact on staff and to ensure flexibility in dealing with unforeseen risks should they arise. In addition, it was stressed that regional specificities should also not be overlooked as the role and scope of offices are expanded. Speakers pointed out the importance of ensuring proper oversight and accountability mechanisms prior to decentralization in the course of the implementation of the regional architecture. Some noted the need to draw a reasonable balance between the Headquarters offices and other offices and to take into account the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, including in relation to costs and in preparation of the next institutional budget 2014-2015.

21. The delegation of Malawi thanked UN-Women for keeping its promise to open a country office in Malawi following its request at the annual session of the 2012 Executive Board. Another speaker thanked the head of the Entity for her engagement with the Pacific region and was certain that the multi-country office in Suva would strengthen the presence of UN-Women in that region.

22. The successful engagements of UN-Women with the civil society, including the civil society advisory groups, were also noted by many.

23. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/6 on the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on the regional architecture: administrative, budgetary and financial implications and implementation plan.

IV. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

24. The Director of the Division of Management and Administration introduced the proposed approach for calculating the operational reserve of UN-Women (UNW/2012/14) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on progress towards a harmonized cost recovery policy (UNW/2012/11). UN-Women was requested to take into account the ongoing proposals and discussions being held by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. As such, those agencies had produced a joint paper for their respective Executive Board meetings in September 2012, in which they had proposed some fundamental changes to the existing calculations and methodologies, but at the same time proposed that the discussions continue, since no conclusion had yet been achieved.

25. UN-Women has been fully engaged in the discussions on cost recovery in both the working group and at the level of the Controller. The Entity has therefore acquired a better understanding of the proposals from the other agencies while also introducing its own views and input. At the same time, along with those agencies, UN-Women is analysing the implications of any proposals on its own cost recovery rates to ensure an aligned approach.

26. The Director of the Division of Management and Administration informed the Board that in arriving at a proposed methodology on the operational reserve, UN-Women had performed detailed analyses of a number of different approaches, including taking into consideration the methodologies followed by the other agencies. Having done so, it was clear that there is no unified approach currently in place, since agencies all maintain differing levels of reserve and liquidity based on differing formulas and, in some cases, no reserve at all. At this stage, there are no ongoing discussions around harmonizing the reserve methodologies.

27. UN-Women has therefore focused on assessing the existing approach of UN-Women to liquidity management and minimizing its risk of cash shortfalls while ensuring that the Entity can maintain ongoing operational functionality and that maximum resources are directed to programme activities. UN-Women already has in place a significant number of controls and operating procedures to ensure that potential cash shortfalls are identified in a timely manner and that risk is therefore minimized.

28. Speakers expressed support for the harmonized cost recovery policy and the proposed approach for calculating the operational reserve and welcomed the efforts of UN-Women to strengthen accountability and its cooperation with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF.

29. Delegations approved the approach of eliminating the distinction between fixed and variable indirect costs, as well as a system with differentiated cost recovery rates for different types of contributions. One speaker noted that the cost recovery policy should avoid cross-subsidization from core to non-core activities and allow for full cost recovery. UN-Women was urged to increase efforts to maximize cost efficiency.

30. In expressing support for the proposed approach for calculating the operational reserve, it was suggested that the methodology be revisited by UN-Women after one biennium.

31. The Executive Board adopted decisions 2012/7 on the progress report towards a harmonized cost-recovery policy and 2012/8 on the proposed approach for calculating the operational reserve for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, respectively.

V. Evaluation and audit matters

32. The Chief of the Evaluation Office introduced the report on the evaluation policy of UN-Women to the Executive Board (UNW/2012/12), which is to enter into force on 1 January 2013, including the background and content of the policy. She outlined the policy implementation plan, the update and development of guidance and management protocols and quality assurance measures, knowledge management platforms, the enhancement of decentralized evaluation function and improvement of evaluability. She concluded the presentation by sharing the corporate evaluations planned for 2012-2013.

33. Speakers expressed strong support for the new evaluation policy, commending its high quality and ambition and the focus on increased transparency and accountability. Delegations urged UN-Women to involve and keep the Executive Board informed on the following: the use of the evaluation policy; evaluation plans and results; and progress in aligning the evaluation policy with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution.

34. Speakers commended the coordinating role of UN-Women within the United Nations system towards system-wide approaches to evaluation on gender. The role of the Entity in the United Nations Evaluation Group and the efforts to align the evaluation policy with the norms and standards of the Group were also appreciated. One delegation requested further information on mechanisms to enhance the coordinating role of the Entity, and suggested joint programmes in this regard.

35. Speakers approved the allocation of 3 per cent of the total plan/programme budget to evaluation and of 3 to 10 per cent of the programme budget towards monitoring. Delegations also noted the importance of ensuring sufficient funds for the establishment of an independent evaluation office. A delegation asked for more information on how UN-Women would ensure the impartiality and independence of the evaluators. Questions were also raised on how donors could use the global accountability and tracking of evaluations system, on how UN-Women would articulate the peer review, and on the extent of participation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

36. One delegation underscored the importance of monitoring and evaluation, while another welcomed the integration of monitoring in the planning and budgetary process.

37. One speaker expressed the commitment to cooperate with UN-Women owing to its strong and robust programme in the country, and another underlined that the evaluation policy should engage the programme country in carrying out the evaluation function at the country level. UN-Women was urged to provide technical assistance in the country, while the importance of the transfer and sharing of knowledge and capacity was underscored.

38. The Chief of the Evaluation Office clarified that UN-Women would use the system-wide action plan to partner with other entities and advocate for joint

evaluations. National ownership and leadership were fundamental principles for which mechanisms would be put in place. In addition, measures are put in place to ensure the competitiveness, independence and transparency of evaluation experts, including by means of rules and regulations, a code of conduct, a statement of non-conflict of interest and peer assessments of selection. UN-Women would also launch a global roster for evaluators with gender expertise. The peer review mechanism was set by the United Nations Evaluation Group and follows a robust methodology. UN-Women would continue to engage in dialogue with the Executive Board.

39. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/9 on the evaluation policy for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

40. The Director of the Office of Audit and Investigations of UNDP introduced the report on internal audit investigation activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011 (UNW/2012/15). He stated that UN-Women had established an Audit Advisory Committee on internal and external audit matters and that he looked forward to working closely with it. He also noted improvement on the part of UN-Women in follow-up to audit recommendations, which was at an overall implementation rate of 80 per cent. In addition, UN-Women would disclose internal audit reports publicly with proper safeguards to enhance organizational transparency.

41. The Director of the Office of Audit and Investigations said that the investigation function of UN-Women was taking shape. Under a service level agreement, the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations would serve as a one-stop shop for all allegations of wrongdoing. UN-Women and the Office of Audit and Investigations had set up an anti-fraud hotline together, and UN-Women would further develop its anti-fraud policy as well as a legal framework to address issues of non-compliance. He also suggested that UN-Women consider publishing a report on disciplinary measures. In addition, he mentioned that the audit function of UN-Women was in need of strengthening and thus requested the Executive Board to support the establishment of adequate capacity.

42. One speaker called for adequate resources to be provided to audits, and another welcomed the decision of UN-Women to publish its internal audits. A delegation called on UN-Women to ensure that the requisite safeguards, including the redaction of confidential information, were established. The importance of proper follow-up to investigations was also highlighted.

43. The Director of the Office of Audit and Investigations concluded by mentioning that the issue of disclosure had been extensively debated in the Executive Boards of other agencies and that the Executive Board of UN-Women should take a position that is coherent with the direction of those other agencies.

44. The Executive Board adopted decision 2012/10 on the report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011.

VI. Special briefings

A. International Labour Organization and UN-Women on global employment trends for women

45. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, introduced the draft report on global employment trends of women, which was finalized and formally launched in December 2012. The collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on this report had proved to be mutually positive, with UN-Women and ILO sharing the advantages of each other's extensive global presence and expertise. The report reflects the global mandate of UN-Women, its cooperation with other agencies and the means through which it deepens its knowledge and policy analysis base. The report is a step towards achieving one of the priorities of UN-Women, women's economic empowerment, recognizing the reality that women and men participate in the labour market on unequal terms.

46. The Director of the Economic and Labour Market Analysis Department of ILO presented the findings of the report. He expressed appreciation for the partnering of UN-Women on the report and continued to explain the concept of "gender gap", the extent to which women are disadvantaged compared to men.

47. The report noted five gender gaps in the following areas over a period of 10 years, from 2002 to 2012: unemployment; employment-to-population ratio; labour force participation; vulnerability; and sectoral and occupational segregation. The gender gap in unemployment rose after the global economic crisis around 2007-2008, especially in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa. The gender gap in employment had been closing before the crisis, but widened after it. The gender gap in labour force participation had been closing in the 1990s and had remained constant in the 2000s, one possible reason for this being that young girls and women were leaving the labour market to go to school. A significant gender gap existed in terms of vulnerability and occupational segregation; for example, a disproportionate number of women were in clerical and retail positions or the service industry.

48. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director stated that the global economic crisis was an opportunity to better rebuild the social fabric for inclusive and sustainable development and growth. She highlighted the work of UN-Women in responding to the need: to implement a combination of macroeconomic, labour market and social protection policies; to ensure that women have access to social services and social protection; to include women in national development strategies that are supported by gender responsive budgeting; to develop policies that stimulate labour demand and include additional public spending on infrastructure; and to implement policies that reduce the burden on unpaid labourers.

49. Delegations posed questions on: the accessibility of the data presented; possible reasons for the gender gap; the differentiated policy approach in urban and rural settings; how UN-Women plans to measure results and report on impacts; any activities to educate young girls about the roles they can play in the labour market; and the trend of women in employment in Latin America.

50. The panellists indicated that the data presented was accessible on the website of ILO and would also be included in the report. Several factors could explain the

above-mentioned gender gaps, including poverty, traditional occupational stereotypes, social attitudes, seniority rules, lower levels of skill and education, and lack of access to infrastructure and resources, among others. Cyclicalities, women ageing and retiring, and girls going back to school could also contribute to the trend in the findings. An improvement in the gender gap is not always a positive development, because it might be triggered by young girls entering the labour market when they should be in school in an attempt to escape persistent poverty.

51. Rural and urban settings warrant a differentiated approach; for instance, in an urban employment setting, the “glass ceiling” issue may need to be tackled, whereas in a rural setting, increasing the size of farm holdings for women might be a good approach.

52. In conclusion, it was mentioned that the outcomes of the present report should be fully reflected in the resolutions and normative frameworks that are adopted at the global level. To this end, UN-Women would strive to connect the operational aspects, the growing research and knowledge base, and the intergovernmental processes of bodies such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly.

B. Activities of the Fund for Gender Equality

53. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women introduced the special briefing on the activities of the Fund for Gender Equality. She highlighted the multiplier effect of investments in women, and stated that the Fund was a vital part of the work of UN-Women. She welcomed the newest donors to the Fund, Germany and Switzerland, and announced a new portfolio of grants of \$12.5 million for 39 countries across four regions of the world. She gave examples of the work that the Fund has supported and the results it had delivered on the ground. A video was shown on the work that the Fund has supported in Lebanon and in Bolivia (Plurinational State of).

54. Switzerland announced its support and contribution to the Fund. Switzerland gave the following reasons for its support: the multiplier effect of investments in women; the Fund’s distinction between small-scale and large-scale programmes, which allows for innovation; the competitive nature of the grants; and the focus on cooperation between governments and civil society.

55. Germany announced its contribution of almost \$3.7 million. Germany noted the Fund’s delivery of resources to advance women’s political and economic empowerment and commended the commitment of UN-Women to provide technical assistance to partner countries.

56. Following the presentations, Spain commended the Fund’s focus on economic and political participation and geographical distribution. Spain also urged other donors to contribute. Mexico announced that women have recently obtained more than 30 per cent of seats in both Chambers of the Congress of the Union and credited the work of one of the Fund’s projects. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the Fund’s work and the contributions from the new donors and noted the importance of the sustainability of local programmes.

57. The head of the Entity underscored that the Fund required grantees to provide a sustainability strategy at the design stage of projects and supported regional and

country initiatives. She said that the Fund also cooperates with partners at the country level and the Civil Society Advisory Group, complementing their work, and that the Fund would continue to deliver the results that are expected of UN-Women.

VII. Informal briefing by the President of the Executive Board

58. A side event was organized by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and UN-Women on the field trip of the President of the Executive Board to Guatemala and Haiti from 16 to 21 July 2012. Following introductory remarks by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director, the President gave his impressions and analysis of his familiarization visit to Guatemala and Haiti. The UN-Women country offices in both countries were also connected through videoconference. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean made some remarks on the challenges facing the region.

59. The President said that he had had the opportunity to meet with many women who were in vulnerable situations, including indigenous women, and noted the important role played by UN-Women, such as the management by UN-Women of “safe houses” in Haiti for victims of sexual violence. He noted that indigenous women in Guatemala represent a part of the population that is most disadvantaged and at the most risk for violence and abuse. High levels of illiteracy exist among indigenous women; however, UN-Women is working on the ground to foster and support their self-development and reliance.

60. The visit was the first by the President of the Executive Board of UN-Women to programme countries. He expressed the view that such visits should become institutionalized, as it was important not only to witness first hand the work of UN-Women and entire United Nations system for a better understanding of challenges faced but also to serve as a show of support and encouragement from the international community.

VIII. Reports on the joint field visit of the Executive Boards in 2012

61. Reports on the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP to Djibouti and Ethiopia (18-31 March 2012) were presented by the delegations of Ireland and South Africa on behalf of all participating delegations.

62. The delegation of Ireland introduced the report on the joint field visit to Djibouti. This visit had provided an opportunity to observe first hand how the United Nations system works together with its partners and how guidance from the Executive Board to the agencies and United Nations country teams could be improved. The mission had been informed by meetings held with the United Nations country team, the Prime Minister, Government representatives and local partners, as well as by site visits made to humanitarian and development projects.

63. The mission had observed the need for the strengthening of capacity and institutions in many areas, such as education and health. Recurring themes in discussions with local communities and Government officials included the need to identify income-generating and employment opportunities. The challenge of being

host to a large number of refugees and finding long-term solutions was also raised. There is a need for improvement in coordination, and a lead role for the United Nations and other development partners in support of the process was welcomed.

64. Improvements in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women (declared a priority by the Government) are evident; however, ensuring that objectives are met requires long-term efforts. Djibouti is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and plans are under way to place a gender focal point in each Ministry with a view to promoting the mainstreaming of a gender policy. The mission recommended that all concerned Executive Boards consider undertaking a feasibility analysis of establishing an in-country presence of UN-Women in Djibouti.

65. The delegation of South Africa introduced the report on the joint field visit to Ethiopia. The purpose of the visit included observation of how the United Nations country team was operating and how the United Nations was supporting government priorities in addressing development and humanitarian challenges, as well as the interaction of the United Nations with development partners. The mission had visited project sites and met various officials. The delegation highlighted that Ethiopia had shown great progress in meeting the goal to become a middle-income country by 2025 by displaying strong ownership and leadership roles in coordinating the United Nations agencies in the country. The United Nations country team in Ethiopia had delivered impressive results, making good progress on the “Delivering as one” initiative. The United Nations country team was encouraged to improve communication with development partners, both on results that were positive and results that could be enhanced. It was noted that the Government had expressed appreciation of the contribution of the United Nations, which was viewed as an important partner in development and humanitarian assistance. The delegation encouraged the United Nations to continue to support capacity-building, and stressed the need to make the results of the work of the United Nations in Ethiopia more widely known.

66. The delegates of Djibouti and Ethiopia gave comments from the floor. The delegate of Djibouti agreed with the need for a UN-Women presence in-country and noted the importance of South-South cooperation as complementary to the traditional partnership with the North. The delegate of Djibouti looked forward to joining and contributing to the UN-Women Executive Board in 2013. The delegate of Ethiopia stated that the joint field visit had been constructive and that the Government of Ethiopia was working closely with the United Nations country team and bilateral donor countries. Improvements had been made on communication with the United Nations country team as well as on the alignment of budget cycles. The delegate expressed appreciation to the Executive Boards for their visit to Ethiopia, and stated that the report delivered by the delegate of South Africa was a correct reflection of the mission. He reiterated the satisfaction of his Government with the work of the United Nations, giving examples of close collaboration and dialogue, as well as with bilateral donor countries. With regard to communicating results, he revealed a welcome initiative of the United Nations country team to develop a new media and communications plan on “Branding Ethiopia”.

67. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director mentioned that although the establishment of a presence of UN-Women in Djibouti was not feasible at present, the Entity would explore the means to respond to the need within the new regional

architecture. Similarly, in Ethiopia, UN-Women would continue working to support its national partners through the country office.

IX. Closing remarks

68. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the manner in which the second regular session had been planned and delivered. In particular, they commended UN-Women for the extensive consultation process on the preparation of official reports done through informal consultations and briefings with Member States. They expressed appreciation for the inclusion in the agenda of special briefings, such as the joint ILO/UN-Women briefing on global trends of employment for women and the briefing on the Fund for Gender Equality. They expressed interest in seeing more such initiatives in the future.

69. The majority of delegations congratulated the head of the Entity for her leadership on the PaperSmart initiative and for the successful session, which for the first time had been carried out without distributing paper documentation. It was noted that PaperSmart sessions would minimize the costs associated with documentation while promoting environmentally friendly practices. The estimated saving of \$100,000 for that session alone was praised and appreciation was expressed that those resources would be redirected to women and girls. Delegations thanked the Department for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management for their valuable collaboration in this endeavour and for their logistical and technical support. In addition, it was noted that this initiative enables the real-time participation of capitals around the world.

70. The head of the Entity thanked the Executive Board for its support in shaping the future of UN-Women. She noted that the Board's decisions would contribute to UN-Women fulfilling its mandate effectively while becoming a more efficient, more accountable and more mature United Nations entity. She thanked donors for their contributions to UN-Women and encouraged the Executive Board to assist the Entity in its resource mobilization efforts. As stated in her opening remarks, she reaffirmed that "when there is no more gender-based violence, when women and girls have the same opportunities as men and boys, when there is peace, justice and equality, then we have created the future we want".

71. The President congratulated the Executive Board and UN-Women on a successful session. He highlighted the decision on the regional architecture, noting its critical importance in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the activities of UN-Women. He stated that the momentum gained should serve as a boost to initiatives aimed at delivering better results for gender equality and women's empowerment. The President stressed the need to ensure that discussions of the Board "lead to actual progress in gender equality and the empowerment of women on the ground". He thanked the Head of the Entity for her presence and leadership, the secretariat of UN-Women and the Vice-Presidents of the Board for their support. He bid farewell to those members of the Executive Board whose terms had ended this year and congratulated those elected to another term and said that he looked forward to their continued constructive contributions.

Annex

Proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session, 23-24 January 2013

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters
2. Operational activities
3. Other matters

Tentative workplan

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Wednesday, 23 January	10 a.m.- 11 a.m.		Opening of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by the President of the Executive Board • Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director
	11 a.m.- 11.30 a.m.	1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board for 2013 and handover of the Executive Board presidency • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the first regular session 2013 • Adoption of the report of the second regular session 2012
	11.30 a.m.- 1 p.m.	2	Operational activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on UN-Women operational activities: report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director
	1.30 p.m.- 2.30 p.m.		<i>Informal briefing of the United Nations Board of Auditors</i>
	3 p.m.- 5 p.m.	2	Operational activities (<i>continued</i>)
	5 p.m.- 6 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Thursday, 24 January	10 a.m.- 11 a.m.		Briefing on the harmonized cost recovery
	11 a.m.- noon		Briefing on UN-Women operational response at the country level
	noon- 1 p.m.		<i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>
	3 p.m.- 4 p.m.	3	Other matters
	4 p.m.- 5 p.m.		Adoption of decisions
		1	Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session 2013 • Adoption of the annual workplan for 2013
5 p.m.- 6 p.m.		Closing statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by the President of the Executive Board • Statement by the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director 	
