



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

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20 and 21 January 2014
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters

Report on the second regular session of 2013, 16 to 18 September 2013

I. Organizational matters

1. The second regular session of 2013 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 16 to 18 September 2013.
2. The Executive Board elected Elisa Díaz Gras (Mexico) to the Bureau as Vice-President, representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, to replace former Vice-President, Roberto de León Huerta (Mexico), subsequent to the conclusion of his tenure in New York.
3. The Executive Board adopted the annotated provisional agenda and workplan for the second regular session of 2013 ([UNW/2013/L.4](#)), and approved the report on its annual session of 2013, held from 25 to 27 June 2013 ([UNW/2013/5](#)). The Executive Board also approved the proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session of 2014 (see annex) with dates to be determined in due course and discussed the draft annual workplan for 2014, in preparation for its adoption at the first regular session of 2014. Subsequent to the meeting, the dates of 20 and 21 January were proposed for the first regular session of 2014.
4. The Executive Board adopted three decisions: 2013/5: on the strategic plan, 2014-2017; 2013/6 on the integrated budget for the biennium 2014-2015; and 2013/7 on the report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period 1 January to 31 December 2012 and the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for the period 25 October 2012 to 31 May 2013, as contained in the compilation of decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2013 ([UNW/2013/11](#)).

II. Opening statement by the President

5. The President of the Executive Board, Normans Penke (Latvia), introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of



UN-Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka. The President stated that she brought to the Entity a wealth of leadership experience from her former roles as the first female Deputy President of South Africa, as a Minister and as a Member of Parliament, and expressed confidence that with her at the helm, UN-Women would be well positioned to continue to build on results achieved and meet challenges ahead.

6. The President paid tribute to the former Head of the Entity, Michelle Bachelet, for her leadership in laying the foundation of the Entity. He recalled that the many successes of the Entity to date were outlined in the report on progress made on the strategic plan, 2011-2013 (UNW/2013/3), as endorsed by the Executive Board at its annual session of 2013. The President stated that in less than three years, UN-Women had become a major player within the United Nations system in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, making significant strides with respect to its normative, operational and coordination roles.

7. The President reiterated, however, that UN-Women would require consistent support from Member States, calling on delegations to reaffirm their commitment and not to allow progress achieved so far to be undermined. Without gender equality and the empowerment of women, sustainable development would be unattainable. Member States would also need to ensure that the Entity had the required resources to fulfil its mandate.

III. Opening statement by the Under-Secretary-General/ Executive Director

8. In addressing the Executive Board for the first time, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director expressed gratitude to her predecessor, Michelle Bachelet, for the role she played in building a strong foundation for UN-Women. She was encouraged by the clean audit opinion from the United Nations Board of Auditors and looked forward to working closely with civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system, the Executive Board, Member States and the UN-Women team. "It is to the credit of your Governments, the Member States of the United Nations, and the backing and advocacy of civil society, that UN-Women was created to lead global efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment", she stated.

9. The Head of the Entity reiterated her firm belief in working in an inclusive manner, engaging all key stakeholders to promote women's rights and human rights, affirming that "the historic moment is now, before and after 2015, so that the 21st century can be a century for women".

10. She stated that the strategic plan is an important contribution to the task of closing the gender gap in a measured, systematic and targeted manner. In its implementation of the strategic plan, UN-Women would harness the power of innovation and technology; education; engaging youth and women, men and boys; and mainstreaming the women's agenda into efforts towards the eradication of poverty.

11. Moving ahead, she foresaw undertaking a challenging and collaborative journey, which would have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls, especially the most vulnerable. In noting that her vision is "to change the game for women and girls" to make greater strides ahead, she mentioned that this requires a

combination of political and financial will. She called on Member States to make the funding of UN-Women a priority just as the creation of the Entity was made a priority. “We need to break the historic pattern of underinvestment in women and girls”, she urged.

12. The Head of the Entity underscored that the integrated budget 2014-2015 envisaged amount of \$690 million, was “a modest target and a bare minimum”. UN-Women planned however, to take collaboration and the concept of “Delivering as one” as far as possible, with a view to saving resources and avoiding duplication.

13. In addition, she affirmed that resource mobilization was one of her top priorities and pledged to ensure that funds would be effectively and efficiently used to deliver value for money, to produce positive outcomes for women and girls.

14. In response to the opening statement, Member States all welcomed the newly appointed Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women and assured her of their full support. Many expressed appreciation for the leadership of the former Head of UN-Women and for the Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, Lakshmi Puri, for ably undertaking the role of Acting Head. They reaffirmed their full commitment to UN-Women and commended the Entity for the inclusive, transparent and consultative process through which the strategic plan, 2014-2017 was drafted and finalized. Several speakers welcomed efforts to build on lessons learned and to reflect the recommendations of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in the strategic plan.

15. The need to accelerate progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the importance of “Delivering as one” were underscored by some delegations. In this regard, many noted their support for the inclusion of a strong gender perspective in the post-2015 development agenda.

16. Some speakers welcomed the vision of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director, which emphasized the significance of education as well as poverty eradication and economic empowerment. While one speaker trusted that the needs and specificities of middle-income countries would be taken into account, other delegations appreciated the increased focus given to humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and the needs of small island developing states within the strategic plan. Ending violence against women and girls and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights were also underlined as being critical elements for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

17. Delegations commended the work done by UN-Women in support of South-South and triangular cooperation, as in their view, it was an increasingly cost-effective way to promote development and enhance learning. They noted the efforts of UN-Women to enhance partnership initiatives and urged the Entity to continue in this vein, especially with other development agencies, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector.

18. Member States were generally concerned about the financial constraints of UN-Women. Some underscored the untenable situation given the high degree of dependence on voluntary resources. A speaker cautioned of the possibility that a shift in the priorities of a single major donor could have considerable negative consequences. The urgent need to identify new sources of funding, including diversification of the donor base, was stressed by many. Speakers urged UN-Women

to continue to work closely with Member States and all other relevant partners to raise funds for the Entity.

19. It was suggested that UN-Women should leverage the current resources in the United Nations development system to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, specifically with entities that have substantial gender-related budget allocations. Some Member States mentioned that UN-Women should avoid competition with other agencies in terms of resource mobilization and focus on complementarity.

20. Delegations welcomed the engagement of UN-Women with the private sector for resource mobilization and fostering of corporate social responsibility. However some highlighted the need for UN-Women to attract further financial support by showing results on the ground, and were pleased to note that resource mobilization was a top priority of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director.

21. The representative of the International Alliance for Women welcomed the Head of the Entity and thanked her for taking the time to meet with civil society members in New York soon after her appointment. The representative was of the opinion that the commemorations of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action should not be “business as usual”, nor require a significant amount of financial resources. However, technology should be used on a global scale to galvanize a powerful campaign of commitments worldwide.

IV. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

22. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director and the Director, Management and Administration of UN-Women, introduced the integrated budget estimates for 2014-2015, in a total amount of \$690 million ([UNW/2013/7](#)). The budget was representative of the minimum level of resources required for the full implementation of the regional structure of the Entity and the achievement of the results of the strategic plan. The budget took into account the short-term needs of the organization in addition to the status of projected revenue for the coming biennium. It was noted that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had thoroughly analysed and recommended the approval of the budget by the Executive Board ([UNW/2013/8](#)).

23. It was stated that UN-Women was presenting its first fully integrated budget in alignment with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and that it had also been prepared on the basis of the harmonized results-based budgeting and cost classification methodologies adopted by all of those agencies (see decision 2013/2 of the Executive Board). This allowed for a level of comparability and understanding among the agencies and ensured consistent terms and definitions were used across the board.

24. The following three principles were employed in the preparation of this budget: efficiency and effectiveness while embedding and operationalizing the regional architecture structure; putting in place the minimum capacity required to implement the strategic plan, 2014-2017; and building on Executive Board decisions 2011/1 and 2011/5.

25. UN-Women proposed a two-year instead of a four-year integrated budget as a result of its current stage of development, having become operational only two years earlier, which limited its analysis owing to the lack of historical data at its disposal to support reliable cost projections for the integrated budget beyond 2015. Furthermore, since UN-Women was also funded from assessed contributions through the regular budget 2014-2015, it was appropriate to maintain for the time being the alignment of those two budgets. It was therefore envisaged that the Entity would submit an integrated budget for 2016-2017 to support the second half of the strategic plan, 2014-2017.

26. It was emphasized that UN-Women was at a pivotal point and that the Entity recognized the difficult financial situation faced by many donor countries. This was underlined by the shortfall experienced by UN-Women with regard to its initial projections for 2012-2013. Member States were urged to prioritize UN-Women in their multilateral envelopes going forward, just as programme countries must prioritize gender in their national planning and budgets.

27. Member States expressed agreement and understanding of the rationale behind the decision of UN-Women to prepare a biennial budget. However, it was understood that in view of the ongoing budget harmonization with the United Nations funds and programmes, UN-Women would plan for a four-year budget from the year 2018 onwards.

28. UN-Women was applauded for presenting the integrated budget on the basis of the harmonized results-based budgeting and cost classification methodology, as applied by other United Nations funds and programmes and for efforts made to link with the strategic plan and the results framework.

29. Delegations noted the gap between the budgetary needs of UN-Women and the resources available to carry out its mandate and commended the Entity for initiatives aimed at closing this gap. A speaker expressed the opinion that a “healthy balance between regular and other resources is critical for the future sustainability of UN-Women” and called on the General Assembly to increase funding to the Entity in a manner commensurate with its mandate. Several Member States appreciated the Entity’s acknowledgement of the global financial environment and its efforts towards a prudent approach in the budget, including the intention to ensure that programmatic support in developing countries is prioritized, should resources fall significantly below resource mobilization targets.

30. UN-Women was urged to allocate sufficient resources to the areas of audit and evaluation. Member States underscored the importance of the budget including clear and separate budget lines for those two important oversight functions. In addition, they looked forward to obtaining further clarifications on the outcome of the functional analysis during the first regular session of the Executive Board in 2014.

V. Thematic evaluation on the contribution of the Entity to preventing violence against women and expanding access to services

31. The key findings and recommendations of the thematic evaluation of UN-Women was presented by the Deputy Chief of the UN-Women Evaluation Unit, and the related management response, by the Deputy Executive Director of the

Policy and Programme Bureau. Covering the period 2008 to 2013, this was not only the first corporate evaluation but also the first independent evaluation presented to the Executive Board by UN-Women. Its objectives were to capture key results and lessons learned from predecessor entities to inform current and future work and to analyse the extent to which UN-Women has strategically positioned itself to implement its mandate in the area of violence against women.

32. The management response noted the complexity of the evaluation, which took into account the four separate entities (which eventually formed UN-Women) and their four different mandates. It also took place against a backdrop of an array of changes within the Entity: not only did the four entities no longer exist, but other factors included the elaboration of the updated strategic plan; the updating of the Entity's development results framework; and the successful conclusion of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women; as well as within the context of improving on the Entity's results-based management system and reporting.

33. In general, UN-Women management was in agreement with the majority of the recommendations. Instances of partial agreement reflected the view of the management of UN-Women that the relevant recommendations were already being implemented through internal change processes.

34. Delegations indicated their support for the work of UN-Women in this very important area of ending violence against women, while underscoring the universality of the issue, one which affects women of all social economic classes, cutting across cultural and religious barriers.

35. Regarding the mandate of UN-Women to coordinate and promote accountability in the area of preventing violence against women, Member States urged the Entity to continue to clarify its focus and to strengthen its profile, in line with the strategic plan. Moreover, they called on UN-Women to enhance its work on the prevention of violence against women, by addressing the root causes of gender inequality. This would include raising awareness; seeking to actively engage men and boys and changing norms, attitudes and behaviours; addressing linkages between the prevention of violence against women and women's economic empowerment; and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.

36. Member States supported the development of a strategy aimed at ending violence against women, for both internal and external use. Such a strategy, it was felt, would help bring focus to UN-Women efforts in this area, clarify its mandate and guide approaches in the field. In addition, it was felt that such a strategy would serve to further clarify how the work of UN-Women related to the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, and how its work with the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women informs efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women.

37. A Member State suggested that the evaluations should also link the global indicators to regional and country or national outputs/outcome and targets, with a view to providing a good baseline for tracking progress. UN-Women was urged to develop synergies with the United Nations funds and programmes and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, since many of the activities in the field were undertaken jointly with other United Nations entities.

38. Speakers were satisfied with the UN-Women management response to the thematic evaluation and appreciated the detailed action plan to be followed by UN-Women in addressing the recommendations from the evaluation report. Given the limited resources available, the management response demonstrated, in their view, a sense of realism, particularly at this point in time.

39. The only non-governmental organization to speak under this agenda item, the Africa Development Interchange Network, emphasized that the empowerment of women is fundamental to the work on ending and preventing violence against women. The representative underlined that violence against women is a global issue. It was also highlighted that as discussions continue on the post-2015 development agenda, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals should not be forgotten. Notably, gender equality and the empowerment of women needed to be given higher priority within that agenda.

VI. Audit

40. The Director of the Office of Audit and Investigations of the United Nations Development Programme presented the report on internal audit and investigation activities of UN-Women for the period 1 January to 31 December 2012 (UNW/2013/9). The UN-Women Audit Unit of the Office planned and conducted three country office audits and a headquarters risk assessment exercise in 2012. The internal audits covered the programmatic and operational activities of the country office in Afghanistan and the subregional offices in India and Kenya. The total audit coverage (\$29 million) amounted to approximately 11 per cent of total expenditures of UN-Women, which represented a minimum level of assurance. However, it was noted that given the small sample and the audit coverage, it was too premature to identify recurring issues for UN-Women on the basis of those three reports.

41. The audits performed in 2012 indicated that the internal controls, governance and risk management processes were functioning but needed improvement. It was mentioned that all outstanding recommendations were in the process of being implemented and that these would be revisited and followed up during the 2013 review of the corporate procurement function in UN-Women.

42. Pursuant to Executive Board decision 2012/10 on public disclosure and in support of the commitment of UN-Women to organizational transparency, the Audit Unit has ensured that the audit reports were made publicly available. To date, the Office of Audit and Investigations has not received any additional comment from Member States regarding the disclosed reports.

43. The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee introduced the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for the period 25 October 2012 to 31 May 2013 (UNW/2013/9/Add.1). It was noted that the founding Head of UN-Women formally established the Audit Advisory Committee as an independent and external advisory group to the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director.

44. The Chair outlined the activities of the Committee and its advice as of 31 May 2013, in relation to the United Nations Board of Auditors, organizational challenges and decentralization, the evaluation function, internal audit, financial statements and implementation of the strategic plan.

45. In addition, with respect to the relationship between UN-Women and the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women entered into a number of agreements with UNDP to undertake some of the Entity's administrative functions, such as managing its treasury services. UN-Women remained accountable for its overall performance. The Audit Advisory Committee emphasized the importance of UN-Women implementing the relevant processes and procedures to ensure that any such outsourced functions are performed appropriately.

46. With regard to internal audit, the Audit Advisory Committee recommended that UN-Women develop and implement a communication strategy to ensure that audit results, recommendations and management actions are articulated in an understandable and transparent manner, particularly when systemic and recurring issues are identified in internal audit reports.

47. The Deputy Executive Director, Policy and Programme, and the Director of Management and Administration jointly presented the UN-Women management response to the reports on internal audit and of the Audit Advisory Committee (see [UNW/2013/9](#), annex, and [UNW/2013/9/Add.1](#), annex). It was noted that in relation to outstanding recommendations not yet implemented, UN-Women had put an action plan in place especially with regard to the internal audit recommendations, which would allow both field office and headquarters to exercise oversight over the various actions taken by those offices to address the recommendations. The clean audit opinion in 2012 was highlighted as being a testimony that with respect to financial management, UN-Women had invested much in terms of training staff and ensuring not only that policies and procedures were in place, but that staff understand the importance of effective financial management.

48. Member States were generally satisfied with the management response to the audit reports. It was necessary to keep in mind that the period under examination was only the second year of the Entity's existence and that moreover, the context was that of many organizational challenges, such as institution-building and change management. They were concerned, however, that the audit function needed to be properly resourced and called on the management of UN-Women to address the issue of providing adequate and timely funding to the audit function. Some Member States were of the view that the capacity of the Office of Audit and Investigations needed to be strengthened in order to safeguard its effectiveness and independence.

49. It was noted that the internal audit report lacked detailed information regarding how UN-Women handled complaints, such as those related to fraud and abuse of authority. Delegations called for future reports to provide more information on this important area.

VII. Informal briefings

A. Review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

50. The Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, made a presentation on the review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In order to effectively address the challenges faced by women and girls at the present moment, it was necessary to

analyse and compare against those experienced by them 20 years ago. The Deputy Executive Director stated that no country in the world was in a position to claim that it had attained gender equality. This therefore meant that the Beijing Platform for Action, as it was formulated 20 years ago, was still relevant. The implementation of the Platform for Action is still lagging behind and the Commission on the Status of Women plays a critical role in keeping the Beijing agenda alive and constantly deepening and adding elements to its foundational framework.

51. Highlighted as an important landmark to be commemorated, the review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action was not simply about chronological age, but about how it coincided with other significant landmarks in the world of development, such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. This was a strategic moment for the Entity, as it would be the first review and appraisal of the Platform for Action since the creation of UN-Women and under the leadership of a new Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director. Another key question regarded how the Platform could assist the Entity in acquiring global acceptance of the stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment.

52. The Deputy Executive Director referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18, which officially launched the process for the review and appraisal, that called on Member States to undertake national reviews; called for the active engagement of civil society; and for the integration of a gender perspective into the post-2015 development agenda. She mentioned that the Entity sought to move ahead in a way that is dynamic and forward-looking, since the key objective of the commemoration was to accelerate and make more effective the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at all levels.

53. The Deputy Executive Director called attention to the chronic underresourcing of UN-Women activities and expressed the view that the commemoration "must be a movement to fire up a whole new generation".

54. Responding to the presentation, a speaker noted that in addition to financial resources, human resources would also present a challenge. The delegate cautioned that priority should be given to implementation in the field, and therefore, efforts should be made to avoid overburdening personnel with questionnaires.

55. Member States asked questions on a number of topics, including how work on the commemoration would be linked to ongoing post-2015 initiatives; how the Beijing Platform for Action could be accommodated within the strategic plan; and what the role of national committees for UN-Women would be in fulfilling the Entity's mandate.

56. The Head of the Entity and the Deputy Executive Director both acknowledged the challenges and questions raised by Member States, underlining the benefit of ensuring that the commemoration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the implementation of the strategic plan, reinforce each other, since there was no mutually exclusive area.

57. The Head of the Entity stated that she saw an opportunity for intergenerational linkages with the involvement of youth. There was a need to galvanize key constituencies, such as religious leaders, and leverage the unity of the United Nations family in working towards gender equality.

B. Lessons learned in implementing the strategic plan, 2011-2013

58. The Deputy Executive Director, Policy and Programme and the Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, made presentations to the Board on lessons learned in implementing the strategic plan, 2011-2013. They outlined some of the major achievements, including the institutional evolution of the Entity; increased visibility for gender equality issues on a global scale; the integration of gender equality into the sustainable development agenda; and increased gender mainstreaming in sectoral areas.

59. Some of the most important challenges faced, however, were that expectations and demands from Member States exceeded the capacity and resources available to respond to those situations; and there was the risk of losing the momentum of gains made to date and for a slow implementation of policies in the light of factors such as emerging and escalating conflicts, humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

60. The Deputy Executive Directors, giving several examples of activities and initiatives in each case, pointed to lessons learned in various areas of operation, such as intergovernmental support; communications and advocacy; strategic partnerships; United Nations coordination and accountability; the role of UN-Women in functioning as a knowledge hub; and resource mobilization, in addition to lessons learned in the various programme areas. For instance, it was found that the programme approach was leading to bigger plans and enhanced reporting. On the other hand, implementation lagged behind legal and policy reforms. Holistic, multisectoral approaches were producing results but required increased coordination in all areas. It was evident that in spite of positive gains, UN-Women needed to redouble efforts in all areas related to its mandate. The Entity continued to build on lessons learned, and as presented to the Board in the report on the strategic plan ([UNW/2013/6](#)), had used these lessons to inform the strategic plan, 2014-2017.

61. The high level of demand from stakeholders for the support of UN-Women was underlined by delegations as an area of interest. One delegation wondered, given the enormously challenging agenda, what the Entity had learned regarding areas where it may be possible for UN-Women to do less. A delegation underscored the issue of data collection and offered to explore assisting UN-Women in this area. Another delegation requested more information about the impact of information and communications technology initiatives.

C. Operational response of UN-Women at the country level

62. A presentation was made on women and information and communications technology, with an electronic connection between the meeting in New York and UN-Women offices in Brazil and India, both of which provided examples of initiatives undertaken in their respective countries. The knowledge gateway for women's economic empowerment was introduced as a platform whereby stakeholders from the United Nations system and beyond could dialogue around this issue (available at www.empowerwomen.org/). The platform covers a vast array of relevant areas, such as policy, data, monitoring and evaluation, employment and information and communications technology for development, all critical issues for women's economic empowerment.

63. This global platform was launched following a consultative process and was formed in line with the global mandate of the Entity. It has the potential to link various constituencies, for instance, to build bridges between civil society and the private sector, that otherwise may not necessarily connect. UN-Women planned to continue to work towards raising awareness about the platform and exploring ways of making it accessible, for example, through libraries, internet cafés and cell phones.

64. The need to learn and grow was underscored as an underlying element of the platform. Therefore training is planned to provide women with concrete “how-to” tools. Various companies would be able to interact in the forum, with Microsoft already offering free online courses.

65. The Head of UN-Women emphasized that technology is an important tool for providing access to vital services, especially among the poor, at a fraction of the cost. For example, teachers in some parts of the world have become mobile counsellors, on an anonymous basis, to support young girls who were survivors of abuse.

66. In response to the presentation, Member States congratulated UN-Women on using the power of technology to promote women’s economic empowerment. One delegate underscored the challenge of computer technology functioning in some very remote areas, where accessibility is also an issue of concern. It was suggested that the use of community radios may be much more feasible, and should not be ruled out as an alternative.

VIII. Closing remarks

67. The Permanent Representative of Japan commended the President for his dedication and consistent leadership. He thanked him for travelling from Tokyo to New York expressly to preside over the session, given his new appointment as Ambassador of Latvia to Japan.

68. In concluding the session, the President stated that the session marked the start of a new chapter for UN-Women. Within the new regional structure, UN-Women would be required to consolidate the existing knowledge and expertise and to choose the most effective ways of strengthening its name and delivering the best results for women and girls across the globe.

69. The President looked forward to the continued involvement of UN-Women in the ongoing discussions to further promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as a stand-alone and cross-cutting priority. Moreover, the review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action, 20 years after its launch, would be a very important moment for women’s rights and UN-Women.

70. He called on Member States to reaffirm their political commitment towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and to accompany their support with a financial contribution to the Entity. He also called on UN-Women to advance its resource mobilization strategy by broadening and deepening its donor base.

71. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director thanked the Executive Board Bureau, Executive Board members and Member States, as well as participating non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations for their input. She

also thanked the Executive Board for endorsing the strategic plan and for approving the integrated budget and thanked Member States for their positive comments on the audit reports. She assured delegations that she had taken note of their comments and suggestions on the review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and counted on their support towards ensuring its resounding success in due course. The Head of the Entity concluded by thanking the dedicated staff of UN-Women for their hard work.

Annex

Proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the first regular session, 20 and 21 January 2014

Provisional agenda

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

Tentative workplan

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Monday, 20 January	10 a.m.- 11.30 a.m.		Opening of the session • Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director
		1	Organizational matters • Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board for 2014 and handover of the presidency of the Board • Adoption of the annotated provisional agenda for the first regular session of 2014 • Adoption of the report on the second regular session of 2013
	11.30 a.m.- 1 p.m.	2	Operational activities • Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director on operational activities
	1.45 p.m.- 2.45 p.m.		<i>Introduction of draft decisions and informal consultations on draft decisions</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>
Tuesday, 21 January	10 a.m.- 12 p.m.	3	Evaluation • Joint evaluation of joint programmes on gender equality in the United Nations system • UN-Women management response to the joint evaluation

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Subject</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic evaluation on the contribution of UN-Women to increasing women's leadership and participation in peace and security and humanitarian response • UN-Women management response to the thematic evaluation
	12 p.m.- 1 p.m.		Briefing on the operational response of UN-Women at the country level
	3 p.m.- 4 p.m.		Briefing on the UN-Women humanitarian response strategy
	4 p.m.- 6 p.m.	4	Other matters
			<i>Adoption of draft decisions</i>
		1	Organizational matters
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2014 • Adoption of the draft annual workplan for 2014
			Closing of the session
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director