



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

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NEW YORK, 17 JUNE 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

UN WOMEN ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ITEM 2: STRATEGIC PLAN

**STATEMENT BY KARIN LINGG, MINISTER, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Mr. President,

Madame Executive Director,

Let me start by commending you, Madame Executive Director, for having led the organization through its most successful year since its establishment. Liechtenstein was pleased to learn that UN Women has been able to achieve most of the goals set out in its first strategic plan and has performed very well on almost all of the performance indicators. The entity has overcome its establishment phase and has been able to consolidate its function as interagency coordinator as well as its role in advancing the normative framework for gender equality. It has greatly contributed to the policy achievements of 2013, namely the CSW57 agreed conclusions – a landmark document on violence against women – as well as the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2122. The overall progress UN Women has made is all the more remarkable given its continuing challenges with regard to financial resources.

While it is important to acknowledge progress, the final report on the first strategic plan also provides us with a good opportunity to take stock and draw conclusions from failures. Taking a closer look at the data companion, we couldn't help but notice that two of the six targets UN Women failed to reach were actually in the hands of the UN system itself: the Chief Executives Board for Coordination has not adopted the UN Women strategy and action plan on women's

economic empowerment and a joint UN system data collection on indicators on women, peace and security is not in place. We sincerely hope that these shortcomings are not representative of a lack of commitment on the part of the UN system. By establishing UN Women - an organization entirely dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women – the UN has sent a strong signal that it attaches great priority to the issue. However, it is important that *all* of the UN entities consistently include a gender perspective into their work and fully implement the system-wide action plan on gender equality.

Mr. President,

Madame Executive Director,

It has been acknowledged on countless occasions that gender equality is more than just a question of basic human rights: it is a precondition for sustainable peace, and it has a multiplier effect on development. In this regard UN Women can play a leading advocacy role in the ongoing elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The reasons why we should strive to achieve full gender equality and empower women and girls as soon as possible are numerous, and so are the commitments the international community has made and continues to make in this regard. However, there seem to be just as many obstacles when it comes to actual implementation. In recent times, we are starting to face a backlash rather than progress, undermining some achievements made twenty years ago through the Beijing Platform for Action - the most comprehensive and progressive document on women's rights to date. It is therefore absolutely crucial that the UN lead by example. We welcome the Secretary General's initiatives – the “he for she” campaign, the “stop rape now” campaign, the “Unite” to end violence against women campaign, just to name a few. But in addition to the Secretary General's championing, we need greater commitment by the UN's senior management, throughout all of its entities, to gender mainstreaming. We believe that UN Women could make an important contribution toward ensuring that gender equality and the empowerment of women are being treated as the priority they should be.

I thank you.