

**Statement by Belgium on behalf of the European Union- Fifth Committee - 65th
UNGA**

Item 129. Programme budget: biennium 2010-2011 UN Women

6 December 2010

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the EU. The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland , the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first thank Mr. Jun Yamazaki, controller, for the introduction of the report of the Secretary-General A/65/531 on UN Women, as well as Ms. Susan McLurg, Chair of the ACABQ for the introduction of the ACABQ report A/65/593. Let me also thank the Under-Secretary-General for the Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, for her presence with us today. The European Union would like to congratulate Ms. Michelle Bachelet once again with her appointment as Executive Director of UN Women and we would like to wish her success for the future.

Mr. Chairman, T

he EU welcomes the establishment of UN Women as an important part of the Organisation's ongoing efforts to enhance its capacity to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. UN Women will be the keystone of the United Nations' vital work in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. The EU has strongly and consistently supported the creation of an entity to strengthen the capacity, accountability and effectiveness of the UN system in this area. After four years of negotiations, the realisation of our collective efforts is a new landmark in UN reform and demonstrates the membership's continued commitment to the reform process. We urge the UN to build on this momentum.

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union has carefully considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised proposal for the use of regular budget resources for the normative support functions of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In that

regard, and for the ease of our deliberations, the European Union appreciates that a proposal for the use of voluntary resources for the support budget for the biennium 2010-2011, together with a revised draft strategic plan and organizational chart, will be submitted in a separate report to the Executive Board of UN Women. With regard to the operationalization of UN Women, the EU emphasizes the importance of ensuring that appropriate procedures for all administrative aspects of its management are in place by the time UN Women becomes operational on 1/1/2011. The EU stresses that, in line with ARES 64/289, it is of great importance to ensure that appropriate steps are taken from the outset to avoid overlaps with the mandates of other United Nations system entities, as well as other secretariat offices and departments, working on similar issues. With regard to the administrative arrangements under the regular budget, the EU supports the use of the grant modality (option 1) for the implementation of the regular budget portion of UN Women, as the most practical option for ensuring the efficient and transparent administration of regular budget resources. In this regard, we note that the grant modality has been successfully used for a number of years for the implementation of the budgets of UNHCR.

Mr. Chairman,

We look forward to open and constructive discussions on this item in informal consultations.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.