HLPF Side Event
Accelerating Women’s Economic Empowerment to Achieve the 2030 Agenda

Excellencies, distinguished members of the High Level Panel and champions of women’s economic empowerment

We congratulate the Panel for its valuable work to advance women’s economic empowerment.

Measures are indeed needed to address the significant gender gaps that persist in so many different fields. Switzerland is determined to address these challenges, both at national and international level.

Allow me to mention two priorities at national level:

- **First, eliminating the gender pay gap**: We follow an approach involving both mandatory and voluntary measures. We provide for example a self-analysis tool enabling private and public employers to check their pay practice. A legislative proposal to oblige private sector companies to analyze their pay practice is currently underway. We also monitor wage equality in the public procurement market.

- **Second, eliminating gaps in social protection and pension** resulting from women’s higher share of unpaid care and domestic work: The ongoing reform of the pension system will reduce such gaps faced by part-time workers, the majority of which are women.

I also wish to highlight two key areas of our international efforts:

- **We are committed to address women and girls’ disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work**, which affects girl’s education and women’s economic opportunities, for example through infrastructure development and labour saving technologies in rural areas.

- **And Second: We aim to promote women’s access to productive resources and financial inclusion**, for example by promoting access to mobile banking.
As we all know, improving the economic status of women benefits society as a whole. Contributing to gender equality and women’s economic empowerment is a collective responsibility of the UN system, member states and civil society.

This is why Switzerland is strongly engaged to ensure that gender equality is an integral part of the new strategic plans that are being developed by UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF this year. They should be implemented in a coherent and integrated manner and in partnership with local actors.