Assistant Secretary-General Kyung-wha Kang Opening Remarks at Commission on the Status of Women Event: Integrating Gender into Humanitarian Response: The IASC Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) Debriefs from Jordan and Nepal

New York 21 March 2016

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As delivered

Colleagues and friends, thank you for joining us to hear some wonderful experiences and lessons to be learned, from the examples of Nepal and Jordan. I would first of all like to thank the Government of the United Arab Emirates for co-hosting with OCHA, this important de-briefing focusing on the important work Gender Capacity Advisers are doing in the field.

The two case studies you are about to hear, touch on the vital support the IASC Gender Standby Capacity Project provides to the humanitarian system and to the different humanitarian country teams on the ground, as well as the role that the GenCap Advisers play in leading the system-wide integration of much-needed gender perspectives into humanitarian action.

The project is hosted within OCHA, but it is works for the entire humanitarian system, as it is an inter-agency capacity in nature, with a steering committee consisting of members from the World Food Programme, UNICEF, UN Women, UNHCR, FAO, UNDP, UNFPA and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). I would like to express my deep appreciation for the steering committee's contribution to the continued development of this very important tool for humanitarians.

We have many GenCap Advisers here, not just the representatives from the two countries you will soon hear more from, so hopefully you will all learn more about the important work the GenCap Adviser are doing in the field to improve gender equality programming in all country situations.

The GenCap Project currently has 19 ongoing deployments at the country and regional levels. These include Turkey, Yemen, Sudan, and the Central African Republic (CAR),

in addition to regional deployments to West Africa, East Africa and the Asia Pacific regions. At the global level, advisers provide support to the global clusters and interagency processes. We need an additional six advisers to be deployed this year to Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Cameroon, Burundi, Latin and Central America, and South Sudan.

GenCap Advisers are invaluable sources for the humanitarian system. In addition to providing the humanitarian operations with technical expertise and leadership on gender integration they also focus on building the capacity of humanitarian actors to promote gender equality programming in emergencies.

The critical work of GenCap Advisers would not be possible without the generosity of donors and partners. Since its inception in 2007, ECHO as well as the Governments of Australia, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and USA have generously supported the GenCap Project. We are enormously grateful for this generosity, but their contribution alone will not help us reach the funding level that the GenCap project requires for this coming year, due to the unprecedented demands from numerous humanitarian contexts.

The work that GenCap Advisers do at the country, regional and at the global level call for more support and stronger recognition by all humanitarian actors, governments and donors. As the challenges continue to mount in humanitarian settings we must use the GenCap Advisers to the fullest and honor our commitment to making the humanitarian system accountable to the needs of women, girls, men and boys.

We are only two months ways from the World Humanitarian Summit, which we very much hope and expect to provide an opportunity for leaders and stakeholders from all sectors to make firm commitments to enhance gender equality in humanitarian action. At the Summit we look to leaders to make concrete actions at the High-Level Roundtable, which will focus on 'Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality', and we call on your support to make sure that these commitments are prioritized. I look forward to hearing your insights and experiences, as we progress. Thank you very much.