

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SYSTEM WIDE COHERENCE

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Distinguished Co-chairs,

We would like to congratulate you on your appointments and wish you well in your continuous endeavors to find a solution.

Much progress on this issue has been obviously achieved by the passage of Resolution 62/277. This achievement was due to the good work and leadership of our former co-chairmen and the cooperative spirit of the whole membership. Based on this dynamic in 2008, we believe that the chances are good to make progress on this topical issue in the coming months.

We like to thank the Secretary General for the last paper, dated 5 March 2009 that focuses on how to strengthen the institutional arrangements with regard to gender equality and empowerment of women. Based on the earlier option paper from the Secretary General of 23 July 2008, and our last deliberation on this topic before the closure of the old session, Liechtenstein, along with other states, has flagged a preference towards the strongest option, that is "the composite entity". During our last meeting this month, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has also stated his preference for such an entity. His comments were timely and very much appreciated.

Based on the latest analysis by the Secretary General, we come to the conclusion that the composite entity indeed offers the best option, in particular because of its ability to consolidate the existing strengths and to create synergy, but also in its capacity to assist in implementing programs and policies at the country level. We also attach great importance to the question of funding. We believe that assessed contributions are in principle an expression of the importance and commitment of the activities under discussion and would ensure sustainability and, of gender activities and also enhance long-term planning capabilities.

Lastly, the financial and administrative implications for these options will be important. The paper suggests in paragraph 63 that, should the Member States select an option, the detailed administrative and financial implications of the option would be presented to the General Assembly. We agree that these implications should be known to the membership prior to the moment of decision-making and would ideally be available already at this stage. We therefore look forward to an early agreement on one of the options and to receiving detailed explanations on budgetary and administrative consequences.

I thank you for your attention.