

**UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE : GENDER  
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Distinguished Co-chairs,

As other delegations before us, we thank the Co-chairs for the final report. We find the co-chairs' paper an excellent account of the work achieved and a very useful basis for further progress. We equally like to express our thanks to Deputy-Secretary Asha-Rose Migiro on the Secretary General's institutional option paper on gender equality and women's empowerment. We believe that this paper is a good foundation for bringing us substantially closer to a final decision.

We need to keep in mind that MDG 3 on this very topic plays an integral part within the other MDGs. Strengthening the gender architecture would positively contribute to bringing us forward on this particular MDG.

We want to make the following short remarks on the SG options paper. The paper clearly presents and explains the present status of the functional make-up, expertise and knowledge of the UN system. It lists and explains the gaps and lays out institutional choices. In short, the paper does what we asked the Secretary General to produce. Based on this paper, we would clearly opt for the second approach that would entail the establishment of a specialized entity. As for the organizational matter, we would tend towards a "composite organ", based on its flexibility to react to specific needs, its autonomy and therefore its status within the UN System. Only such an entity would seem to have enough authority that is efficient and effective, and thereby would make a tangible difference. We should aim for no less.

At the same time, we need to keep in mind that, and I quote from paragraph 5 of the option paper "national governments have the primary responsibility for achieving gender equality goals in line with their national strategies". The commitments adopted in this field are, of course, numerous. In principle, whatever option we finally may agree upon, a more effective UN system equally requires an even stronger cooperation, commitment, implementation and follow-up by each one of our governments.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

Based on our long-lasting deliberations on this issue, we should consider closing in on an option. However, based on our tight working schedule before the closure of this GA Session and the broad consensus that we need to have, we think that the most sensible next step would be to devise a draft resolution that would, inter alia, spell out a sensible timeline for conclusion, with concrete steps that would lead up to a decision in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session.

In closing, we like to thank the co-chairs once again for their hard work and exemplary dedication to their mandate.

I thank you.