



IRELAND

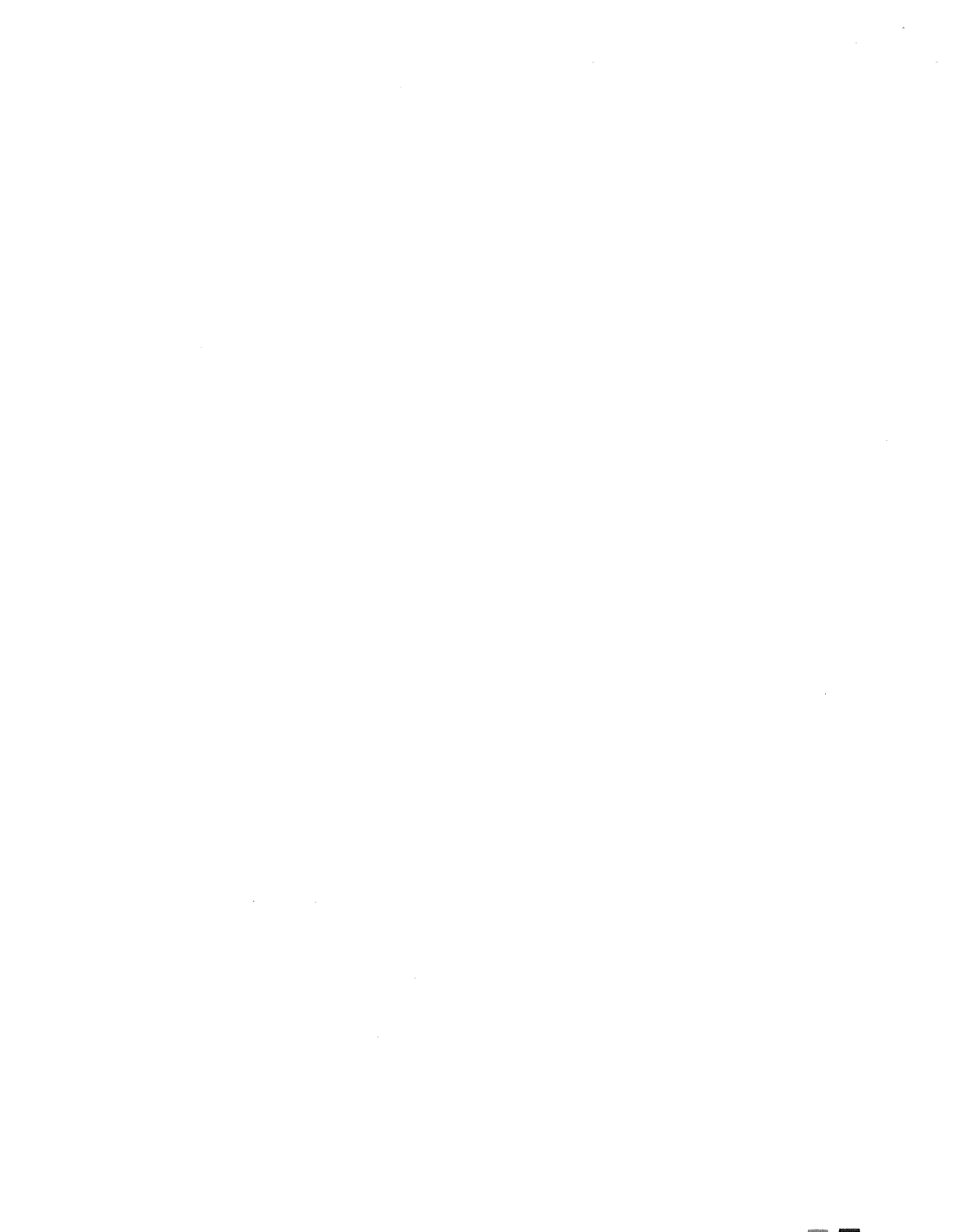
**United Nations System-wide Coherence
Informal Consultations in the General Assembly**

**National Statement
delivered by:**

**H.E. Ambassador Paul Kavanagh
Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the United Nations, New York**

Friday, 13 March 2009

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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, Ireland would like to congratulate warmly both Ambassador Mbuende, Permanent Representative of Namibia and Ambassador Yáñez-Barnuevo, Permanent Representative of Spain on their appointment as Co-Chairs to lead this important process. The Co-chairs can be assured of our full support in the consultations.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his statement and for his continued commitment to, and engagement in this important process.

Co-Chairs,

Resolution 62/277, adopted unanimously by the Assembly this past September, reflects the unified view of the membership and provides us with the agreed platform on which to base our work this session.

The Assembly has identified, by consensus, five main areas of work in the context of System-wide Coherence, namely: (i) ‘Delivering as One’; (ii) Business Practice Harmonisation; (iii) Funding; (iv) Governance; and (v) Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. The Assembly has also expressly agreed to take substantive action in three of these areas during the current, 63rd session.

In the area of ‘Delivering as One’, the Assembly has spoken. It has given a positive political impulse to the reforms taking place in the increasing

numbers of developing countries which are voluntarily embracing this approach. The Assembly has anticipated an independent evaluation, in due course, of the voluntary 'Delivering as One' process in the countries concerned.

In the meantime, it is surely now up to the UN Country Teams and their various Headquarters within the UN System to carry the new paradigm forward – so that when the independent evaluation is carried out, it can be based on the most advanced experience of the new approach. All of this should continue to be in response to the needs and requirements of the developing countries concerned. Indeed the principles of national ownership and government leadership must remain at the core of it.

On business practice harmonisation, the member States in the Assembly will need to be kept fully abreast of actions that the Secretary General and his colleagues in the Chief Executives Board are undertaking within their own prerogatives. In this way, the open and transparent dialogue established last year can be continued.

In the area of Funding, our discussions last year were largely based upon the important consensus reached in the TCPR Resolution of 2007. In paragraph 32, the TCPR emphasised the importance of increasing financial contributions to the UN System as key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, while at the same time recognising the mutually reinforcing links between increased effectiveness and coherence of the UN, achieving concrete results in assisting countries to eradicate poverty and the overall resources of the UN System. There is also consensus in the

Assembly that this reform can in no way be a cost-cutting exercise – any savings generated must be ploughed back into programmatic work. It is clear that an efficient, coherent and therefore more effective UN System is in all our interests. Such a System will clearly be better placed to attract more of the resources necessary for it to do its job.

On the issue of Governance, a number of key principles emerged from our discussion of last Session. Among the most important of these is national ownership and national leadership to which I have already referred. In the System-Wide Coherence context, any change to the governance structure at global level must respond to the experience and requirements of the developing countries concerned. It must also embody the principle of ‘No One Size Fits All’, respecting the fact that each developing country situation is unique. The particular situation of middle income countries needs to be addressed.

Our collective aim in this context is not to re-draw the UN Governance from the top down but rather to deal effectively with the challenges presented at headquarters levels by the new, voluntary paradigm that is being embraced by an increasing number of developing countries.

Finally, on the subject of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, during the 62nd Session, there was recognition on the part of all regions in the Assembly of the urgent need to make progress in creating a stronger and more effective UN entity to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment across the UN System and throughout the world. The Assembly has also resolved to take substantive action in this session. We

look forward to making progress in addressing the gaps and challenges which the entire membership has identified and which hamper this critical area of the UN's work. The Assembly, in its consensus Resolution 62/277, has given a very clear indication of the direction in which it now intends to carry forward the work on Gender with the support of the Secretariat.

Dear Colleagues,

In taking forward our discussions on the implementation of 62/277, it will be vital for all of us to avoid the divisive trap of any North/South dichotomy in our thinking. The positive and constructive approach, with the hallmarks of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, which produced a consensus agreement last year, continues to hold the best prospect of decisive progress this year.

For the three areas where we are to agree substantive action, the papers which the Secretariat is preparing will be useful spurs to the discussion this Session, but as always, it is the views of the membership which will be paramount.

It will be necessary to achieve progress on all elements of the consensus Resolution 62/277, but it is important that we do not impose artificial limits to progress on any of the diverse priority areas. We must recognise that the issues on which we are to take action, while equally important, are themselves of a different substantive nature and will proceed by their nature with a different tempo.

Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

The Assembly has resolved to take substantive action on various matters during the current Session. We believe it is important to ensure that the discussions on Funding and Governance within the System-wide Coherence effort remain focused on the UN's operational activities for development and are not confused with the many other strands of negotiation underway at UN this year.

Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

We have in place a hard won consensus agreement on System-wide Coherence. Let us all do our work within the framework of that consensus. Under the able guidance of our distinguished and experienced Co-Chairs we will certainly reach a fruitful conclusion to our work in the 63rd Session. In this spirit, the Irish delegation pledges its full cooperation to the Co-Chairs, in the important discussions ahead.

Thank you.

