



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Statement by HE Ambassador PARK In-kook
Permanent Representative
Plenary Informal Consultations on System-wide Coherence
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Mr. Co-Chair,

At the outset, since this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor since the appointment of Co-Chairs, the Republic of Korea would like to express its sincere congratulations to Ambassador Mbuende, Permanent Representative of Namibia, and Ambassador Yanex-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 Deputy Secretary-General for her statement and her personal commitment to and engagement in the system-wide coherence process, in particular, the strengthening of the UN System Gender Architecture.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We started this process of strengthening the gender architecture two and half years ago with the sincere recognition that the current UN System has not effectively fulfilled its commitment to gender equality and women empowerment within the system as well as throughout the world. In the meantime, a Concept Note was submitted in 2007. As part of the second step, gaps and challenges were identified. Then the Institutional Options to address those gaps and challenges were presented as the third step.

Based on these exercises, the Assembly has adopted a resolution to take substantive action to create a stronger and more effective UN entity during this session and requested that the Secretary General develop modalities of institutional options to facilitate the decision by member states.

Now we have the fourth paper on Gender Architecture as a result of wide consultation among various UN organs. We appreciate the efforts of Deputy Secretary General Mm Migiro, ASG on Gender Issues Ms. Mayanja and her team in conducting extensive consultations and producing the common denominator to meet all gender related mandates of various entities.

We have not only a modality Paper in front of us but also a historic opportunity to reform the UN system to meet its commitment to gender. This is a very rare and precious opportunity for us to build a new architecture.

The next step we should take is to specify the option we would like to further explore. As self-evident in the paper, neither Department Model nor Fund/Program Model can fully address the identified gaps and challenges. The new architecture should be the most desirable one in terms of its potential to deal with all challenges in an effective way. It is clear that both the Department model and Fund/Program model have inherent limitations in addressing the gaps and challenges, namely: coordination and coherence; authority and positioning; accountability; resources; country-level support; and country-driven demands and ownership.

As it is clear that those two options are not able to effectively address the problems, and the Composite model has the greatest potential to achieve this goal, it seems natural that the logical choice would be the Composite Entity Model.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

As you emphasized at the opening remarks, the purpose of this meeting is to carry forward the work done during the last session and to achieve substantive progress. In order to do that, we should make a clear request to the Secretary General to further develop the modality of the Composite Entity in a more detailed manner in order to facilitate better informed decisions of member states. The paper submitted gives us a brief sketch on the governance structure, staffing and funding of the Entity but lacks details.

As to the governance, according to the Paper, the Executive Board would have features that are well known and yet provide opportunity for innovation. Since the functions of the Composite Entity are

broad, covering both policy and normative support functions and operations on the field, the existing mechanisms of other entities would not fit perfectly. Therefore, the governance structure should be further developed in an innovative way and carefully examined.

In addition, a staffing plan and organizational charter (organic diagram) should be presented. Furthermore, a summary of the financial implications for the reform and a concrete funding proposal are also expected. We understand that developing such a detailed proposal is not simple work; rather it is a complicated task which requires time and human resources. On top of that, the task requires serious input from and concerted efforts among various UN entities including gender entities and other relevant bodies such as the UNDP, UNICEP and UNFPA. But we are confident that the Secretary General will introduce a comprehensive proposal which will serve as an excellent basis for our substantive decision, as he has done with his proposals for the creation of DSF and strengthening of DPA.

Mr. Co-chairs,

Besides Gender Architecture, we have two other important areas where we are to agree on substantive actions. We look forward to substantive discussions on them soon since it is necessary to achieve progress on all elements of the Resolution 62/277.

However, we would like to remind that during the negotiation of the Resolution, two aspects on how to address three different elements were considered; namely, the need to achieve substantive actions on all important elements as the entire system-wide coherence process on one hand, and the need to address each respective issue from its own nature and perspective and with a different tempo on the other hand. As a result, we resolved to take stock of all of prior actions at the end of the entire process in the form of a single resolution. In other words, the consensus resolution allows us to take actions on three major areas respectively, though not necessarily simultaneously, according to which ever is ready to take an action on. All the actions will ultimately be incorporated as stock taking in a single resolution at the end.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, my delegation is confident that under your able guidance, we will certainly reach a consensus on Gender Architecture during this session, in parallel to or in advance of the other important areas, depending on the overall tempo of the consultations. In this spirit, the ROK delegation pledges its full cooperation to the Co-Chairs and constructive contribution to the consultation process. Thank you for your attention.