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System Wide Coherence

**Statement by
Mr. Peter Sidler**

**Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations**

New York, March 30th 2009

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

As this is the first time we take the floor in the context of your leadership of the system-wide coherence process, we would like to thank you for taking on this important task and assure you of our full commitment and support.

We heard last week in the JCC statement that the group is in favour of a system wide coherence process, which deals with its different components in a single approach. While we understand that the issues related to funding and governance are interrelated, we are not convinced that the linkages to gender architecture are sufficient to justify such an approach. We would therefore caution against creating artificial links which would prevent us from moving ahead towards a more coherent and efficient operational system.

We are looking forward to receiving the reports on funding and governance which we hope will build on existing instruments, such as Resolution 62/208 (QCPR). OP 29 of this resolution is a good example of concrete guidance from the membership to the system with regard to funding. We hope that the Secretary General will seize the occasion to appraise us on measures he has taken to implement this request of Member States.

With regard to gender, we would like to thank the Deputy Secretary General for her report. We very much appreciate all the work and effort that has been put into writing this document in response to Resolution 62/277.

Last year's consultations have clearly shown that the membership is unanimous in its support for a system which maximizes the efficiency of gender related operations at field level and has a measurable impact at the global level. We are of the opinion that these two goals would best be served by opting for the composite model. As underscored by the Secretary General in his speech on the 13th of March, this model stands out as the only possible option. It also ensures that existing agencies are accountable for their gender related activities. Furthermore, it has the significant advantage of not creating a new institution which would inevitably compete with other existing entities in terms of resources and mandate.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

On the basis of the four reports that the secretariat has submitted to the membership, we feel that it is now time for Member States (at expert level) to further discuss the detailed modalities of this composite entity.

The funding of this entity will without doubt be an important topic of our discussions. Several options could be envisaged, one of these could be financing a certain percentage of the resource base of this entity through assessed contributions from the Funds and Programmes and specialized agencies that implement gender related activities. In turn, these bodies would have the possibility to participate in the operational guidance of the gender entity.

In terms of governance, we endorse the Deputy Secretary-General's proposal to use existing structures rather than creating new ones. Such precedents actually exist in the system: The Board of UNDP/UNFPA has for example recently asked that UNOPS report directly to the board.

As for the links of the gender entity with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), we believe that we can also draw lessons from existing models. UNFPA for example is accountable to the UNDP/UNFPA Board, but it is guided thematically by the work of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). A similar mechanism could be adopted with the CSW for the gender entity.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

We believe that the time is right for member states to constructively discuss the exact modalities of this composite gender entity. As these discussions will be quite technical, it would be advisable to hold them at expert level. On the basis of their work, we could then take decisions in plenary meetings.

We look forward to engaging in the further discussions and are confident that this work will help Member States to agree, in the course of the 63rd General Assembly, on the new gender architecture.

I thank you.