



IRELAND

Statement by

H.E. Ms. Anne Anderson
Permanent Representative

at the

General Debate:
Conclusions and Recommendations for the QCPR

New York, 17 July 2012

Check against delivery

PERMANENT MISSION OF IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS
885 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017 TELEPHONE 212 421-6934 FAX 212 752-4726
ireland@un.int

Mr. Vice President,

The preparations for negotiation of the QCPR Resolution have been informed by an impressive preparatory process over the last six months. With its forward looking emphasis, extensive participation of stakeholders, and greater use of evaluation, this has been a valuable initiative.

There is a broad range of issues requiring our attention, and the statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States has addressed a number of them. I will confine myself to touching briefly on four areas which Ireland would wish to see prioritised in this autumn's Resolution.

(i) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The establishment of UN Women is clearly one of the major institutional milestones since the adoption of the last QCPR Resolution. It is noteworthy – and reassuring – that a significant majority of all stakeholders surveyed in preparation for this year's Resolution agreed on the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in the UN's work.

It will be important that this is fully reflected in the QCPR Resolution and that UN Women's system wide mandate is strongly reaffirmed. This must not of course imply any diminution of responsibility on the part of any of the constituent parts of the Organisation. We heard Executive Director Bachelet this morning on the need to balance the need for focus with the need for mainstreaming. The Resolution must at the same time underpin the role of UN Women to lead and co-ordinate, while strengthening gender awareness and accountability right across the system.

(ii) Development effectiveness

The second priority is improving development effectiveness.

Development effectiveness obviously matters to donor countries but is even more important for our development partner countries and their citizens.

The UN undoubtedly has made progress in enhancing internal coherence since the last QCPR Resolution in 2007. But the key lessons learned from the independent evaluation of

the Delivering as One pilot initiative now need to be carried through to this year's Resolution. The time is right: the pilot exercise is coming to an end and, as the Secretary General has emphasised, we need to move on to a second generation of Delivering as One.

Some important points have been made in the past couple of days.

As was emphasised in a number of interventions, the test of Delivering as One is the results it delivers. Ideally, what we want is light process delivering significant results; we most certainly do not want an imbalance in the opposite direction – a heavy process that fails to make a real impact.

Michelle Bachelet also raised an important issue this morning in referring to the structural tension in a system that calls for collective results but measures and rewards entities on an individual basis. We need to reflect on how we can use Delivering as One to incentivise collective effort.

More generally, we need to make better use of results based methods. The development process cannot be over-simplified: long-term transformative development interventions and results are often difficult to define in uncertain country contexts. Nevertheless, within this general context, reporting on results could and should be made more effective.

Unnecessary duplication could be eliminated by introducing, for example, a single format for progress reports.

Development effectiveness also means strengthening partnerships. The UN needs to find innovative ways of developing and institutionalising new partnerships with significant non-governmental actors. In the area of food and nutrition security, for example, we are impressed by the results of such a partnership in the Scaling- Up Nutrition movement.

(iii) Addressing Inequality: focus on equity

The third issue we consider a priority is the need to address rising inequality both within and among countries. The intervention we have just heard from the PR of Nepal underlines the particular needs of the least developed countries. The statement from Tony Lake yesterday focused on achieving results for the most vulnerable and most disadvantaged.

We believe that the equity approach being developed by UNICEF should lead to a major rethink of development programmes, with greater cross sector and inter agency approaches, and perhaps more linkage of normative and operational mandates such as is already taking place in UN Women.

(iv) Post conflict countries

The fourth priority area for Ireland is to ensure that the needs of post conflict countries are better addressed. The UN system as a whole currently commits a high level of resources to these countries and this should continue.

But we have to do things better: in our work in post-conflict countries, we need to close the gap between theory and practice. It is well-established that sequencing does not work - that peacebuilding and developmental needs must be addressed from the outset of conflict. We know too that silos must be broken down so that political, developmental, humanitarian and human rights work can fit together in a mutually reinforcing way.

The QCPR Resolution is an opportunity to try to ensure that a more coherent peacebuilding perspective is applied to all our work in post conflict countries.

Conclusion:

The high level discussions over the past two days have reminded us not only of the operational but also of the strategic importance of what is at stake. This year's Resolution will be framed in a particularly challenging environment – geopolitical shifts, a difficult and uncertain global economic context, rising inequalities, growing environmental threats, an increasing number of countries in crisis. The human needs are greater than ever and the expectations of the UN are correspondingly higher. It is up to us to deliver a Resolution that responds to those needs and expectations.