6 June 2008

Mr. President,

In response to your letter to the Secretary-General dated 20 May 2008, I have the honour to submit to you a note on the substantive and programmatic aspects of the work of the United Nations system on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

The attached note builds on the Secretariat’s earlier concept note dated 1 August 2007 addressed to the President of the Sixty-first session of the General Assembly. More specifically, this note highlights the increasing demand on the UN system to support countries in advancing the implementation of their commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment. Furthermore, it briefly outlines the achievements, gaps and challenges identified in addressing Member States’ concerns.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you Mr. President for your leadership, and through you, your two Joint Chairs, the Permanent Representative of Ireland, Ambassador Kavanagh, and the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, Ambassador Mahiga, for their strong commitment to furthering discussions in the Assembly on System-wide Coherence, particularly in the critical area of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signature]

Asha-Rose Migiro

His Excellency
Mr. Srgjan Kerim
President of the General Assembly
New York