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19 March 2009

Excellency,

As delegations may recall, on 13 March we held the first plenary informal consultations on System-wide Coherence after our appointment as Co-Chairs of the process by the President of the General Assembly in his letter dated 20 February. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their active participation in the first informal consultations and for the statements made during that meeting. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his important and substantive participation on that occasion. We look forward to working closely with him and the Secretariat in order to address the issues at stake in a timely manner.

The Co-Chairs and the Secretariat took note of the questions raised during the first plenary informal consultations. They will be addressed in due course during our future consultations on the issues identified by General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/277.

As regards the following stages of the process, during the meeting on 13 March we expressed our intention to convene informal consultations to discuss the documents requested by General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/277 as they are provided by the Secretary-General.

We are pleased to convene the next plenary informal consultations on System-wide Coherence on Monday 30 March 2009. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the paper entitled "Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women", prepared by the Secretary-General in response to General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/277 and transmitted by the President of the General Assembly to all delegations on 13 March. Details on organizational arrangements of the meeting will appear in the Journal in due course.

As requested by operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/277, the document submitted by the Secretary-General provides further detailed modalities in respect of the four options outlined by the Deputy Secretary-General in her paper of 23 July entitled "Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women". Also, as requested by operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/277, the paper submitted by the Secretary-General focuses in particular on the "Composite entity" and, in its "Findings and Conclusions" section, it states that the "Composite entity has the greatest potential to address the identified challenges and carry out the functions set forth in paragraph 9" of the document.

The purpose of the informal consultations on 30 March is to carry forward the work on the reform of the gender architecture already undertaken during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, with a view to facilitating substantive action by the General Assembly during its sixty-third session. Therefore, the Co-Chairs would like to have focused and action-oriented discussions on 30 March, particularly concentrated on the "Findings and Conclusions" and the "Proposed Way Forward" sections of the document under consideration.

Finally, as we indicated during the consultations on 13 March, we intend to conduct this process in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. As it has been the practice in the past, all documents relevant to this process, including our letters and speeches, will be available in the following internet address: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/issues/swc>

We look forward to having constructive and focused discussions in order to build consensus and achieve substantive progress on the important issues before us.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Kaire M. Mbuende  
Permanent Representative of Namibia



Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo  
Permanent Representative of Spain