

Co-facilitators' elements for resolution

New Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009 on System-wide coherence,

*Recalling* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly, and relevant resolutions of General Assembly on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General A/64/588, entitled “Comprehensive proposal for the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

*[other preambles to be included],*

**Establishment of the New Entity**

1. *Decides* to establish a composite entity, to be known as \_\_\_\_\_ [*for the purpose of this draft, the entity will be referred to hereinafter as the “Entity”*], by consolidating the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW);

2. *Decides* to abolish and liquidate UNIFEM;

3. *Requests* the ECOSOC to abolish INSTRAW;

4. *Decides* to transfer the existing mandates, functions and assets of OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and INSTRAW to the Entity.

**General Principles**

5. *Decides* that:

(a) the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of General Assembly and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly will provide a framework for the work of the Entity;

(b) the Entity will provide guidance to all Member States, across all levels of development, and in all regions, at their request concerning gender equality and the empowerment of women, similar to other UN entities that combine normative and operational mandates;

(c) the Entity will operate on the basis of principles agreed to through the process of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), including responding to the needs of and priorities determined by Member States, and on their request;

6. *Emphasizes* that the establishment of the Entity and the conduct of its work should lead to enhanced coordination, coherence, accountability and capacity of the United Nations system to respond to the needs of Member States, and thus, greater efficiency and effectiveness of the UN's efforts with respect to both gender equality and women's empowerment.

### **Governance**

7. *Decides* that the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, together with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and an Executive Board, will constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the Entity in order to reflect the combination of normative support functions and operational activities to be performed by the Entity.

8. *Decides* that the General Assembly will establish the mandate and primary functions of the Entity; that the ECOSOC will provide continuing guidance on the mandate and primary functions of the Entity; and that any new mandates will be subject to approval by intergovernmental process;

9. *Decides* that, in addition to the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, the CSW will provide normative framework and policy guidance to the Entity;

10. *Decides* to establish an Executive Board to govern and oversee the operational activities of the Entity; and further decides that the Board will be established as: option 1: an autonomous segment of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, [NOTE: taking into account that UNIFEM, which will be consolidated into the Entity, is currently subject to the UNDP Executive Board]; option 2: a new Executive Board, independent of the existing Executive Boards;

11. *Decides* that the Executive Board will perform functions in line with other Executive Boards carrying out similar functions, as set out in paragraph 22 of Annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162;

12. *Decides* that the Board will report to the ECOSOC, which in turn will report to the General Assembly, in accordance with the established practice of other Executive Boards carrying out similar functions;

13. *Requests* the ECOSOC to establish formal linkages between the CSW and the Executive Board, which both report to the ECOSOC, to ensure close coordination and regular

exchange of information between them with a view to enhancing coherence, including through a joint session between CSW and Executive Board;

14. *Requests* the USG/Head of the Entity, in order to ensure accountability, to submit an annual report on the work of the Entity, to both the CSW and the Executive Board;

15. *Decides* that, when the relevant items are before the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the USG/Head would interact with them to contribute to the dialogue or deliberations;

### **Leadership, structure and functions**

16. *Decides* that the Entity shall have its own staff and shall be headed by an Under-Secretary-General. The USG shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, on the basis of equitable geographical representation and gender balance, consistent with the relevant provisions of Article 101 of the UN Charter, and to be funded by the regular budget resources in accordance with paragraph 24 below. The USG/Head will report to the Secretary-General; and will be a full member of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the Policy Committee, the Senior Management Group and other relevant internal UN decision making mechanisms;

17. *Decides* that the USG/Head will administer the staff of the Entity in accordance with the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules, and requests the Secretary-General to delegate broad authority to the USG/Head in the administrative matters of the entity including personnel matters, and the application and implementation of the UN Staff Regulations and Rules;

18. *Decides* that the Entity will combine the functions traditionally performed by the Secretariat of providing policy and normative support to inter-governmental process, with the functions traditionally performed by UN Funds and Programmes of carrying out country-level operational and technical support responsibilities;

19. *Decides* that the functions of the Entity will consist of the existing functions of OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and INSTRAW, as outlined in Annex 1 in present resolution,

20. *Decides* that the Entity will have an additional role of leading, coordinating, and facilitating the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and women's empowerment;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed organizational chart of the Entity:

(a) based on the agreed mandates and functions set forth in this resolution,

- (b) taking into account that the number of staff in each functional area and each level shall be the minimum required to perform the agreed functions as determined by a functional analysis, and
- (c) indicating that Headquarters and regional offices of the Entity will include capacity to provide technical guidance to all Member States, upon their request;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit the organizational chart through the ACABQ to the Fifth Committee for approval of elements to be funded by the regular budget resources, and to the Executive Board for elements to be funded by voluntary funding;

### **Financial architecture**

23. *Decides* that normative support functions of the Entity will be funded by the regular budget, and support to operational activities of the Entity will be funded by voluntary funding;

24. *Decides* that the financial resources from the regular budget will require the approval of the ACABQ and the Fifth Committee, and once approved by the General Assembly, will be assigned as a grant to the Entity to be used for the posts and purposes approved by the Fifth Committee and administered and disbursed in accordance with the Entity's Financial Regulations and Rules;

25. *Decides* that the financial resources from voluntary funding will require the approval of the Executive Board;

26. *Stresses* the need to ensure sufficient funding for the Entity, and *urges* Member States to provide multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions to the Entity, with as much 'core' as possible, and *decides* that reporting on funding should be transparent, and easily accessible to Member States;

27. *Decides* that the Entity shall have Financial Regulations and Rules consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Funds and Programmes; the USG/Head shall propose the Entity's Financial Regulations for adoption by the Executive Board and shall promulgate the Financial Rules ;

28. *Decides* that the Entity should, to the extent possible, use the existing capacities in the United Nations, in order to keep overhead costs to a minimum, including central services, such as treasury, audit and procurement;

29. *Decides* that any expansion of the capacity of the Entity should be gradual, taking into account requests by Member States for assistance; other relevant capacity available in the UN Country Teams; availability of funds; and approval for the use of such funds by the General Assembly for regular budget resources, and by the Executive Board of the Entity for voluntary funding;

**Review of implementation**

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of this resolution at its 67<sup>th</sup> session; and

31. *Decides* to review the implementation of the present resolution in three years, at its 67<sup>th</sup> session.

Annex to the draft resolution

**Functions of the Entity**

The Entity will have the following functions:

(1) Provide substantive support to United Nations intergovernmental bodies, (including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly), in which commitments, norms and policy recommendations on gender equality and gender mainstreaming are discussed and agreed upon;

(2) Support national efforts to promote and enhance gender equality and women's empowerment through innovative and catalytic country-driven programming, working with the entire United Nations country team, including on gender mainstreaming, capacity development and the provision of targeted technical cooperation, in line with national priorities;

(3) Undertake global, regional and national advocacy efforts on issues critical to gender equality and women's empowerment to ensure that under-recognized and under-resourced issues receive national, regional and global attention;

(4) Support Member States, at their request, in their effort to implement and monitor the gender equality and the empowerment of women aspects of relevant resolutions, processes and outcomes, including the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

(5) Undertake new, and consolidate existing, research and analytical work to support overall objectives, and act as a hub/centre of knowledge and experience on gender equality and women's empowerment from all parts of the United Nations system;

(6) Strengthen the accountability of the United Nations system, including through oversight, monitoring and reporting on system-wide performance on gender equality;

(7) Monitor and report on system-wide compliance with intergovernmental mandates on gender balance, including at the senior and decision-making levels; and

(8) Lead and coordinate United Nations system strategies, policies and actions on gender equality and women's empowerment to promote effective system-wide gender mainstreaming, drawing fully on the comparative advantage of United Nations actors<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to operational paragraph 20 of present resolution