

**ADOPTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON  
SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE**

**EXPLANATION OF POSITION**

**Statement of the Permanent Representative of Iceland  
Ambassador Gunnar Pálsson  
On behalf of the Nordic countries**

**14 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this explanation of position on behalf of the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The Nordic countries welcome today's long awaited unanimous decision to create a new and consolidated gender entity of the United Nations. This is a fresh start for our organization in promoting gender equality and strengthening gender mainstreaming for improved effectiveness and impact, including at the country level.

The strong support by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General throughout has been of great importance. The Secretary General has made it clear that the time is now ripe for action, a view we fully share.

Today's adoption will enable the Secretary General to take the next important steps towards realizing the new entity. We look forward to the appointment of an Under-Secretary-General and believe the new entity should be up and running by the middle of 2010. There is no time to lose.

The Nordic countries want to recognize the role of civil society in our deliberations over the past three years, and reiterate the need to find sustainable formats for this important dialogue to continue once the gender entity is operational.

With a strong and efficient new gender entity in place we must all commit to an ambitious goal for increasing voluntary funding to the entity in the years to come.

Mr. President

The Nordic countries also look forward to following up on the strengthening of the governance and funding system of operational activities for development. With a more accountable, transparent and efficient governance that ensures delivery of better results on the ground we believe more and more predictable funding will follow. In this respect we should start drawing on the experiences gained by the countries that have taken part in the “Delivering as One”.

Finally, allow me to thank the two co-facilitators: Ambassadors Mbuende of Namibia and the Yáñez-Barnuevo of Spain for their diligent work, as well as you, Mr. President. Indeed, we would like to congratulate you on the result on this final day of your tenure.

I thank you Mr. President