

Draft speaking points for meeting between the Nordic ambassadors and the  
UNSG Ban Ki-moon

- There is a broad agreement among member states that we need continued progress on UN reforms.
- There is a particularly clear and broad support for the idea of moving forward with the gender track as soon as possible. The idea of strengthening the UN Gender Architecture has, as you know, been strongly advocated by a large number of UN Member States representing different geographical regions and political groupings as well as within the UN system and the NGO-community.
- The empowerment of women is a pre-requisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The MDG's related to women are lagging behind and cannot be met without radical changes in the work of the UN system.
- There is an urgent need to make use of the current momentum in this matter, which the Nordic countries believe is of vital importance for the future work of the UN. Progress on this issue would strengthen the UN activities in the gender sector and attract more financial support.
- The 62nd GA now opens new opportunities to move the gender reform agenda forward. In order to move forward we would, however, need strong leadership combined with an even broader, high-level political commitment and support from member states.
- The Nordic countries feel that the moral authority provided by a strong commitment of the SG to this matter could be of vital importance for the future of the reform process. A continued personal SG involvement could function as a catalyst in attracting broad high-level political support for the gender reform among UN member states.
- At the same time we also need to ensure the strong support of the PGA to the reform process.
- The Nordic Countries welcome the *Concept note on Strengthened Architecture for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women* which was shared with the Membership on 2 Aug by the former PGA. This very useful document constitutes an important building block. The Nordic countries

welcome the strong readiness of the Secretary-General and his Deputy, as expressed in the Concept note, to further elaborate on the proposed governance, structure, funding and staffing of such a new entity.

- It is vital that we aim for an entity which has the potential to bring the improvements needed. The change must not be merely cosmetic in nature. The new entity must be empowered to function as a substantive and political leader for gender equality at the global and national level. To be effective it must have authority, autonomy and significant and predictable funding.

- We also welcome the report on the consultations regarding System-wide Coherence (SWC) that the PGA forwarded to member states on October 4th. The report provides useful information that can be used to move the process forward. The Nordic ambassadors stand ready to support the co-chairs in their efforts to bring this issue forward without delay and continue to build consensus around these issues among the member states.

- We would be very interested in hearing your views and ideas on how to move forward with the gender reform process.