



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY  
SOUS RÉSERVE DE MODIFICATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR JOHN McNEE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AT THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE**

**NEW YORK, 16 MAY 2008**



**DÉCLARATION DE**

**L'AMBASSADEUR JOHN McNEE  
REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**LORS DE LA 62<sup>E</sup> SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE  
DES NATIONS UNIES**

**CONSULTATIONS OFFICIEUSES SUR LA COHÉRENCE À L'ÉCHELLE  
DU SYSTÈME DES NATIONS UNIES**

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support. At the country level, we note that the standard terms of reference for Humanitarian Coordinators clearly communicates their responsibility for promoting gender mainstreaming and women's rights in policy, planning and implementation. However, no such responsibility is articulated in the standard job description or performance appraisal guidelines for Resident Coordinators, and there is no high level accountability mechanism in UN headquarters.

- **Many Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams lack quality and dedicated advice, analysis and statistics on gender equality.** Only a few country teams have dedicated gender equality resources, and this needs improvement. Less than half of UN Country Teams have gender theme groups, but these face heavy workloads, vague mandates, limited resources, limited political clout and often lack access to management. Gender focal points are rarely gender experts or devoted only to gender equality.
- Most UN agencies allocate too little resources to gender equality and few track and report on their gender equality expenditures. Without specific **allocation and tracking of resources and consistent monitoring and evaluation** of the effectiveness of such investments, it is impossible to evaluate gender equality results, identify gaps and ensure timely and better responses.
- **UN staff members working at the country level do not always understand gender equality and development concepts, and efforts to train staff to support the implementation of gender equality have been decreasing.** This is an area in which we see **no progress** in UN country teams, and requires attention. Despite the 2004 TCPR's call for the assurance of adequate gender equality training, the 2006 RC synthesis report shows consistent annual decreases in staff capacity development initiatives in this area between 2004 and 2006. Only 13% of country offices reported any capacity development for staff in gender equality in 2006, representing a 25% drop since 2004.
- Different parts of the UN system work on gender equality and women's empowerment, which leads to **gaps and overlaps in responses**, including uneven attention among geographic regions. This situation prevents and frustrates optimal use of scarce resources currently available in the development system. There is clearly an urgent need for substantially increased funding to address violence against women. Unfortunately, multiple small and inadequate funds create confusion over roles and weaken the efficiency of the UN's responses. They also make it challenging to determine the most effective and comprehensive opportunities for funding.
- In recent years there have been advances in interagency mechanisms to promote gender equality in operations, notably through the UNDG Task Force on Gender Equality and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. However, these lack clout and visibility, and we note that none of the UN's women's organizations are members of the Chiefs Executives Board for Coordination where decisions are made. The CEB took an important decision in 2006 in adopting the system-wide policy and strategy in gender equality; it now **needs consistent support and leadership** in making this decision operational via a comprehensive action plan **focused on results and** that is underpinned by **strong accountability mechanisms**.
- The UN's senior management ranks have grown to 81 Under Secretaries General and officers of equivalent rank. Despite a clear and longstanding UN mandate for gender equality and women's empowerment, there is **no senior leadership position** to promote and support gender equality advances across the system and **that has access to senior decision-making networks**.

- There are persistent gaps between the normative work and the operational work undertaken to achieve gender equality. National level implementation of the normative framework — a framework strengthened considerably by the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW, has stagnated due to several factors already outlined. There has also been little progress in ensuring that normative processes are informed by operational work addressing concrete situations on the ground, particularly in emerging issues. Such work is necessary to ensure that international standards meet new challenges and needs at country level.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

To summarize, the gaps revealed at the central level following an assessment of performance at the country level include nine areas:

1. **institutional and individual accountability,**
2. **senior decision making,**
3. **comprehensive results structures,**
4. **gender advice, data collection and gender analysis,**
5. **system-wide monitoring and evaluation,**
6. **capacity development,**
7. **clarification of mandates, and**
8. **resources.**

We recognize that slow, incremental improvements are taking place within the system, and that some operational agencies dedicated to gender equality have had some successes at the national level. However, the system's own documents show that the overall picture is diluted, the responses diffuse and the gaps numerous. Without significant leadership, accountability and clarity of mandates, they will not be addressed in the current system.

Looking forward, CANZ requests the Co-Chairs to organize further consultations on this issue in order to lead us beyond a focus on gaps to a **focus on solutions**. We would welcome further analysis and advice from the UN Secretariat as a basis for further discussion.

Thank you.