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Procedures for the election of the Members of the Executive Board of UN Women

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of this Note is to set out proposals for the first election for the Executive Board of UN Women to be discussed and finalized at a forthcoming meeting of ECOSOC.
2. By its resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "System wide coherence" the General Assembly decided to establish a United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women.
3. By that same resolution the General Assembly decided to establish an Executive Board as the governing body of that entity to provide intergovernmental support to and supervision of its operational activities.
4. By paragraph 59 of its resolution the General Assembly decided that the Executive Board will carry out functions as outlined in annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, taking into account the provisions of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010.

II. Composition of the Executive Board

5. By paragraph 60 through 64 of its resolution, the General Assembly set out arrangements for the composition of the Executive Board which will consist of 41 members.
6. The composition of the Board will be as follows:
 - (a) Ten from the Group of African States;
 - (b) Ten from the Group of Asian States;
 - (c) Four from the Group of Eastern European States;
 - (d) Six from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States;
 - (e) Five from the Group of Western European and Other States;
 - (f) Six from contributing countries;
7. Six seats to be allocated to contributing countries which will be distributed as follows:
 - (a) Four seats to be allocated to four of the largest providers of voluntary core contributions to the entity, to be selected by and from among the top ten such contributors; and
 - (b) Two seats to be allocated to two developing countries, not members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, that provide voluntary core contributions to the entity, to be selected from among the top ten such providers by those developing countries, due consideration being given to geographical balance.

8. The above allocations will be in accordance with the list provided by the Secretary-General of the average annual voluntary contributions of Member States in the previous three calendar years to the core budget of the entity or, for the interim period, to the United Nations Development Fund for Women, for which statistical data are available.

9. A Member State can be selected from only one category at any one time.

10. ECOSOC will elect members to the Executive Board for a term of three years, in accordance with established practice. The General Assembly has also requested that the Council carry out the first elections by no later than 31 December 2010.

III. Candidatures

11. Membership of the Executive Board shall be open to all Member States of the United Nations.

IV. Voting procedure in ECOSOC

12. It is therefore necessary for ECOSOC to elect the members of the Executive Board before 31 December 2010 in accordance with the allocation of seats outlined above.

13. The election will be held in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of ECOSOC, including the rules relating to elections, rules 68, 69 and 70.

14. Member States which have obtained the majority of the members present and voting and the highest number of votes in the ballot will be considered as elected.

15. For purposes of such an election, Members of ECOSOC will have to decide whether the election of the representatives from the six contributing countries listed above should occur prior to, simultaneously or subsequent to the election of representatives from the regional groups bearing in mind that there are Member States who would be eligible to be elected as either a representative from a regional group or as a representative from a contributing country.

V. Terms of membership

16. Paragraph 64 of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 requires that ECOSOC elect members of the Executive Board for a term of three years, "in accordance with established practice." In this regard, Members may wish to recall that for the election of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, which is for a three year term, it has been customary practice for the terms of members that have been elected to be staggered for the initial period in order to avoid having the entire membership retire at the same time. Consequently, in the case of the initial elections for all three Boards, ECOSOC decided by a drawing of lots which Member States would serve for one year, two year and three year terms respectively.

17. Members may thus wish to consider whether in the case of the Executive Board for UN Women, all 41 Members should be elected for a three year term or whether it would be advisable to stagger the terms of the 41 members and that the President, through the drawing of lots will decide who will serve for one year, two year and three year terms respectively.

18. Should ECOSOC agree to this procedure then it may wish to consider deciding that the staggering terms for the drawing of lots shall be as follows:

<i>Regional groups</i>	<i>Number of seats for</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>One year</i>	<i>Two years</i>	<i>Three years</i>	
African Group	3	3	4	10
Asian Group	3	3	4	10
Eastern European Group	1	1	2	4
Latin American and Caribbean Group	2	2	2	6
Western European and Others Group	1	1	3	5
Contributing countries	2	2	2	6
Total seats	12	12	17	41

19. Immediately after the completion of the election of 41 members, the drawing of lots for the staggering of terms of offices will be held by ECOSOC. In accordance with past practice five boxes indicating the regions will contain the names of the Member States that have been elected. The President of ECOSOC shall draw the names one by one in accordance with the terms of office. All members of the Board shall be eligible for re-election for a second term.

20. Arrangements set out in this Note shall only be applicable to the first election of the Executive Board.