

**Skýrsla fastanefndar Íslands  
hjá Sameinuðu þjóðunum  
um starfsemi  
62. allsherjarþingsins  
2007/2008**

**auk yfirlits um starf  
öryggisráðsins  
og efnahags- og félagsmálaráðsins  
ágúst 2007 til júlí 2008**

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## **Inngangur**

Skýrslu þessari er ætlað að gefa yfirlit um störf fastanefndar Íslands á 62. allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna (SP). Einnig er fjallað um starf öryggisráðs SP og efnahags- og félagsmálaráðs SP (ECOSOC) frá ágúst 2007 til loka júlí 2008.

Í viðauka eru ræður ráðherra, fastafulltrúa og annarra fulltrúa Íslands í allsherjarþinginu, nefndum þess, í öryggisráðinu og ECOSOC. Þá eru þar töflur sem sýna mál hvernar nefndar og afgreiðslu þeirra, sem og afstöðu Íslands til mála við atkvæðagreiðslur.

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## **Forseti 62. allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna**

Sú nýjung að kjósa forseta allsherjarþingsins og varaforseta þremur mánuðum fyrir upphaf þess hefur mælst vel fyrir. Þá gefst nýkjörnum forseta meiri tími til að búa sig undir að taka við störfum við upphaf hvers allsherjarþings.

Forseti 62. allsherjarþingsins var kjörinn 24. maí 2007. Fyrir valinu varð dr. Srgjan Kerim, fyrrverandi utanríkisráðherra Makedóníu. Varaforsetarnir sem kjörnir eru frá landahópunum fimm eru sextán að tölu og ennfremur eru fimm varaforsetar frá fastarikjunum í öryggisráðinu (P-5). Fastafulltrúar Íslands og Tyrklands voru kjörnir varaforsetar fyrir Vesturlandahópinn (WEOG). Dr. Kerim nýtti varaforseta allsherjarþingsins meira en gert hefur verið. Fastafulltrúi Íslands stjórnaði því mörgum fundum 62. allsherjarþings.

Forsetinn, varaforsetarnir og formenn sex fastanefnda allsherjarþingsins sitja saman í allsherjarnefnd (General Committee) allsherjarþingsins.

## **Fundir utanríkisráðherra við setningu þingsins**

Þann 18. september 2007 var 62. allsherjarþingið sett og 24. september flutti Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, utanríkisráðherra, ræðu í höfuðstöðvum SP á sérlegu þingi háttsettra leiðtoga um loftslagsbreytingar. Til þingsins var boðað af Ban Ki-moon, aðalfrankvæmdastjóra SP. Fundinn sótti einnig Þórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, umhverfisráðherra. Í ræðunni fagnaði utanríkisráðherra frumkvæði aðalfrankvæmdastjórans og lagði áherslu á nauðsyn þess að alþjóðlegir sáttmálar um tölusett markmið og aðgerðaáætlun gegn loftslagsbreytingum yrðu mótaðir á vettvangi SP.

Mikilvægt væri að samningar yrðu gegnsæir og opnir öllum ríkjum heims, sérstaklega þeim sem fyrirséð væri að harðast yrðu úti af völdum loftslagsbreytinga. Hét utanríkisráðherra fullum pólitískum stuðningi Íslands við alþjóðlegar aðgerðir, þ. á m. á ráðstefnunni sem haldin var síðar í Balí á Indónesíu í desember 2007 og einnig á væntanlegum þjóðarleiðtogafundi í Kaupmannahöfn 2009. Byggja bæri á því sem vel hefði reynst í Kyoto-samningnum, s.s. þeim takmörkum og tímamörkum sem þar hefðu verið sett, en jafnframt koma til móts við þróunarríki og leita nýrra lausna í samstarfi við atvinnulífið.

Íslensku ráðherrarnir sóttu einnig hádegisfund, sem haldinn var að frumkvæði Kenýa, Indónesíu, Póllands og Danmerkur undir yfirskriftinni "Global Voices on Climate Change". Þessi ríki eru gestgjafaríki á aðildarríkjaþingi loftslagssamnings SP árin 2006-2009.

Almenna ráðherraumræða 62. allsherjarþingsins hófst svo 25. september. Að þessu sinni var áhersla umræðunnar á loftslagsbreytingar. Sótti utanríkisráðherra móttöku Bandaríkjaforseta að kvöldi þess dags og kvöldverðarfund aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP.

Þá tók ráðherra hinn 27. september þátt í reglulegum fundi utanríkisráðherra Norðurlandanna sem haldinn er í tengslum við allsherjarþingið. Eitt megin umfjöllunarefni fundarins var ímynd og staða Norðurlandanna á vettvangi SP og norræna víddin í starfsemi samtakanna, m.a. í friðargæslu og þróunarsamvinnu. Voru ráðherrarnir sammála um að þrátt fyrir trausta stöðu ríkjanna á þessum vettvangi, mætti vinna enn frekar að styrkingu norræna gilda í starfsemi SP. Framboð Íslands til öryggisráðs SP var rætt í þessu samhengi og gerði utanríkisráðherra þar grein fyrir stöðu kosningabaráttunnar, m.a. þeim fjölda tvíhliða funda sem hún átti með starfssystkinum sínum í tengslum við ráðherravíkuna í New York.

Fimmtudaginn 27. september, ávarpaði utanríkisráðherra ráðherrafund um samþættingu alþjóðlegra öryggis- og heilbrigðismála, undir yfirskriftinni "Global Health and Foreign Policy", sem haldinn var að frumkvæði Noregs og Frakklands. Í erindi sínu fagnaði utanríkisráðherra hinu nýja frumkvæði og þeim leiðum sem þar eru kynntar, m.a. til mats á árangri í þróunarsamvinnu og friðargæslu. Heilbrigði og öryggi væru nátengd nú á dögum nýrra ógnvalda, s.s. farsóttu og sýklavopna. Þá áréttaði utanríkisráðherra að heilsa kvenna væri hvarvetna forsenda efnahagslegra- og félagslegra framfara, þ. á m. aðgengi að kynfræðslu og getnaðarvörnum. Meðal annarra sem ávörpuðu fundinn voru Ban Ki-moon, aðalframkvæmdastjóri SP, Margaret Chan, framkvæmdastjóri Alþjóðaheilbrigðismála-stofnunarinnar (WHO), Bernard Kouchner, utanríkisráðherra

Frakklands og Jonas Gahr Støre, utanríkisráðherra Noregs, sem stýrði fundinum.

Hinn 28. september sótti utanríkisráðherra morgunverðarfund í boði Condoleezza Rice fyrir kvenleiðtoga og var þema umræðna "Progress on Women's Empowerment" og að kvöldi sama dags sat Ingibjörg Sólrún kvöldverðarfund kvenutanríkisráðherra í boði starfssystur frá Liechtenstein. Síðdegis hafði ráðherra flutt ræðu Íslands á allsherjarþinginu.

Í ræðu utanríkisráðherra, sem bar yfirskriftina "New challenges - Solid cornerstones", fjallaði utanríkisráðherra m.a. um mannréttindi, þúsaldarmarkmiðin, þróunarsamvinnu, jafnrétti kynjanna, loftslagsbreytingar, Mjanmar, Írak og framboð Íslands til setu í öryggisráði SP. Ræðu utanríkisráðherra á allsherjarþinginu er að finna í 1. viðauka.

### **Tvíhliða viðræður ráðherra**

Á meðan almenn umræða ráðherra á 62. allsherjarþingi SP stóð yfir átti utanríkisráðherra tvíhliða fundi með utanríkisráðherrum rúmlega þrjátíu ríkja þar sem hún kynnti framboð Íslands til setu í öryggisráðinu. Hún hitti auk þess fjölda annarra ráðherra og leiðtoga í tengslum við ýmsa viðburði tengda allsherjarþinginu. Sjá nánar kafla þar sem fjallað er sérstaklega um framboð Íslands til öryggisráðs Sameinuðu þjóðanna.

### **Almennt um starfsemi fastanefndar**

#### **Framboð Íslands til öryggisráðsins**

Starfið vegna framboðs Íslands til sætis í öryggisráði Sameinuðu þjóðanna árin 2009-2010 heldur áfram. Framboðið er m.a. kynnt fyrir öðrum ríkjum á vettvangi Sameinuðu þjóðanna og óskað er eftir stuðningi þeirra. Náið samráð er við önnur Norðurlönd um framboðið og þau vinna að íslenska framboðinu víða um heim. Má að sumu leyti segja að um sé að ræða norrænt framboð. Finnland býður sig fram til setu í öryggisráðinu fyrir hönd Norðurlandanna árin 2013-2014 og Svíþjóð árin 2017-2018.

Eins og áður hefur komið fram, keppa þrjú WEOG ríki um tvö sæti í ráðinu. Þau eru auk Íslands, Austurríki og Tyrkland. Fastanefnd, og sérstakt kosningateymi utanríkisráðuneytisins, halda utanum upplýsingar í gagnagrunni um atkvæðaskipti, skrifleg og munnleg stuðningsloforð, viðræður og fleira viðkomandi framboðinu. Kosningarnar eru í október 2008.

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Fastanefndin gegnir lykilhlutverki við kynningu á framboðinu. Fastafulltrúi hefur fundað með fjölmörgum starfssystkinum sínum á tímabilinu og handritað persónulegt bréf til allra fastafulltrúa. Öll óformleg og formleg tækifæri til kynningar á framboðinu á meðal fastafulltrúa og annarra úr fastanefndum, sem gefast í New York, eru notuð. Fastanefndin dreifir ýmiskonar kynningarefni um Ísland til hinna fastanefndanna sem eru 191 að tölu. Má t.d. nefna Iceland Review, ræður ráðherra á ensku o.fl.

Kosningafulltrúar fastanefnda Norðurlanda hafa með sér náð samráð og funda reglulega. Allir starfsmenn fastanefndar koma að framboðsmálunum að meira eða minna leyti.

Utanríkisráðherrar Norðurlandanna sendu þann 17. september 2007 sameiginlegt bréf til hinna 187 utanríkisráðherra SP þar sem mikilvægi framboðsins fyrir Norðurlöndin var áréttað og þakkað var fyrir góðan stuðning sem framboðið hefur nú þegar fengið. Í bréfinu kom fram að Ísland, Danmörk, Finnland, Noregur og Svíþjóð ynnu sameiginlega að framboði Íslands til öryggisráðsins fyrir tímabilið 2009-2010. Þá þökkðu ráðherrarnir yfirlýstan stuðning ríkja við framboð Íslands til öryggisráðsins.

Norðurlöndin öll hafa getið sér gott orð innan SP fyrir jákvæða og uppbyggilega framgöngu. Helstu áherslumál Íslands innan samtakanna eru m.a. virðing fyrir mannréttindum, efling lýðræðis, sjálfbær þróun, umhverfis- og loftlagsmál, málefni hafsins, barátta gegn fátækt, þróunarsamvinna, friðargæsla, staða kvenna og barna á átakasvæðum og virðing fyrir grundvallarreglum þjóðaréttar.

Forseti Íslands, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, tók þátt í opnun útibús Glitnis í New York í september 2007 og í samvinnu við utanríkisráðuneytið og forsetaskrifstofu skipulagði fastanefndin sérstaka fundi forseta Íslands með: 1) sendiherrum Karíbahafsríkja (CARICOM) 5. september, 2) sendiherrum Afríkusambandsins daginn eftir og 3) sendiherrum Arababandalagsins 7. september 2007. Þessir þrír fundir voru hreinir framboðsfundir vegna íslenska framboðsins.

Þá kom fastanefnd því einnig til leiðar að forseta var boðið af hinni virtu stofnun International Peace Academy, IPA, að halda þar fyrirlestur 6. september um hlutverk smærri ríkja. Þangað var fyrst og fremst boðið sendiherrum smárikja hjá SP (FOSS-ríkja, Forum of Small States). Þar var framboðið ekki nefnt, en fundurinn og fyrirlestur forseta vöktu verðskuldaða athygli.

Forseti Íslands skrifaði í kjölfarið öllum sendiherrunum bréf og þakkaði þátttöku þeirra og ítrekaði stuðningshvatningu. Því bréfi var dreift til allra viðkomandi fastafulltrúa.

Dagana 24. - 28. september 2007 var forseti Íslands aftur í New York, þá vegna Clinton Global Initiative, sem sótt var af fjölmörgum þjóðarleiðtogum. Skipulagði fastanefnd í samvinnu við forsetaskrifstofu og ráðuneytið fundi forseta með átta þjóðarleiðtogum. Auk þess hitti forseti aðra þjóðarleiðtoga og ráðherra í höfuðstöðvum SP, óformlega í móttökum og víðar.

Sömu viku átti Grétar Már Sigurðsson, ráðuneytissjóri, fundi með fulltrúum 17 smáeyþróunarríkja (SIDS), til viðbótar við þau sex smáeyþróunarríki sem hann sat fundi með ásamt utanríkisráðherra. Á fundum sínum með fulltrúum þessara ríkja kynnti ráðuneytissjóri fyrir þeim hugmyndir um frekara samstarf Íslands með smáeyþróunarríkjunum, sérstaklega þeim sem eru í Karíba- og Kyrrahafi, á sviðum fiskveiða, jarðorku og sjálfbærrar þróunar.

Umhverfisráðherra, Þórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, sat með utanríkisráðherra fund um loftslagsbreytingar 24. september. Í tengslum við hann hitti hún ýmis starfssystkin sín að máli, ræddi á óformlegum fundum með þeim almenn málefni Íslands og einnig framboð Íslands til öryggisráðs SP, eftir atvikum.

Forseti Íslands var í New York í febrúarmánuði til að flytja fyrirlestur og svara spurningum (hinn 21. febrúar) á fundi um loftslagsbreytingar. Fundurinn, sem fastanefndin stóð fyrir, var haldinn hinn í bókasafnssal SP undir heitinu "Preventing Climate Change: The Road to Success". Auk forsetans flutti Dr. Leena Strivastava, frá The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) á Indlandi, erindi f.h. Dr. Rajenda Pacauri, sem forfallaðist. Fastafulltrúi stýrði fundi og Dr. Angus Friday, fastafulltrúi Grenada, flutti stutta samantekt um málefni fundarins. Fundurinn var afar vel sóttur og sköpuðust líflegar umræður í lok hans.

Í kjölfar fundarins var haldinn blaðamannafundur sem var sjónvarpað í beinni útsendingu og vakti hann athygli. Mikið var fjallað um erindi forseta Íslands dagana eftir fundinn á meðal fastafulltrúa og þótt framboð Íslands hafi ekki verið nefnt á nafn á fundinum er alveg ljóst að allir hugsa til þess engu að síður.

Forsetinn hélt síðan framboðsræðu í móttöku fastafulltrúa fyrir fulltrúa herlausra ríkja SP þann 20. febrúar. Þá hitti forseti fastafulltrúa nokkurra helstu ríkja SP hvern fyrir sig, þ.á m. allra fastra ríkja í öryggisráðinu (P5), á morgunverðar- og hádegisverðarfundum á heimili fastafulltrúa og fjallaði um framboð Íslands.

Utanríkisráðherra sótti fund kvennanefndar SP fyrir hönd Íslands í febrúar, eins og áður sagði, og hitti af því tilefni nokkra fastafulltrúa til að tala fyrir framboðinu.

Forsætisráðherra var í New York dagana 12. til 14. mars 2008 og flutti framboðserindi fyrir frönskumælandi ríki, aðildarríki Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, í höfuðstöðvum samtakanna í New York. Í þeim eru rúmlega fimmtíu ríki og mæltist erindi forsætisráðherra, sem flutt var á frönsku, afar vel fyrir.

Forseti Íslands flutti fyrirlestur hjá Carnegie Council hinn 1. apríl um "Climate Change and New Security Issues" (sjá [www.forseti.is](http://www.forseti.is)) sem vakti mikla athygli viðstaddra, ekki síst margra fastafulltrúa hjá SP. Í kjölfarið átti forseti síðan fundi vegna framboðs Íslands með fastafulltrúum Ríðhópsins (Suður-Ameríkuríkin, án Karíbahafseyríkjanna). Hann sat fund fastafulltrúa Norðurlanda og Eyrstrasaltsríkjanna og hitti auk þess nokkra fastafulltrúa á tvíhliða fundum.

Fastafulltrúi og kosningafulltrúi fastanefndar voru í fyrstu íslensku áheyrnaraðilasesendinefnd Íslands hjá Samtökum Ameríkuríkja í Medellín, Kolumbía, 31. maí - 4. júní. Össur Skarphéðinsson, iðnaðarráðherra, fór fyrir sendinefndinni og í henni var ennfremur fulltrúi iðnaðarráðuneytisins. Íslenska sendinefndin átti fjölmarga tvíhliða fundi þar sem fjallað var um framboð Íslands til setu í öryggisráði SP og einnig um mögulega samvinnu, fyrst og fremst á sviði jarðhitanýtingar. Ísland var formlega boðið velkommið sem áheyrnaraðili og hélt iðnaðarráðherra ræðu við það hátíðlega tækifæri.

Þann 7. maí var haldinn samnorrænn fundur í húsakynnum fastanefndar um framboð Íslands til öryggisráðsins. Fulltrúar komu frá höfuðborgunum fimm, auk þess sem norrænu fastafulltrúarnir og nokkrir aðrir fulltrúar úr norrænu fastanefndunum sóttu fundinn. Fyrir hönd Íslands sátu fundinn Grétar Már Sigurðsson ráðuneytisstjóri, Kristín Árnadóttir og Jón Erlingur Jónasson frá Reykjavík og fastafulltrúi, Emil Breki Hreggviðsson og María Mjöll Jónsdóttir frá fastanefnd. Rætt var almennt um framboðið, hvernig því hefði verið háttað og hvernig síðustu mánuðirnir fram að framboðinu skyldu skipulagðir. Eftir almennar umræður var fundarmönnum skipt í þrjá vinnuhópa sem fjölluðu nánar um sértæka liði framboðsvinnunnar.

Hópur íslenskra ráðuneytisstjóra sótti fastanefnd heim 30. apríl - 4. maí. Ráðuneytisstjóri utanríkisráðuneytisins átti síðan fundi með nokkrum fastafulltrúum fram að norræna fundinum 7. maí.

Mánudaginn 16. júní var opnuð á sýningarsvæði í höfuðstöðvum SP sýning á ljósmyndum Páls Stefánssonar undir heitinu „The Beautiful Game-Images of Football in Africa.” Myndirnar eru teknar í sjö Afríkuríkjum, Senegal, Kamerún, Egyptalandi, Tansaníu, Gana, Tógó og Benín og sýna fótboltaíðkun sem ríkan þátt í daglegu lífi almennings

í þessum ríkjum. Sýningin var opnuð af fastafulltrúa Íslands og Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo, sendiherra og fastafulltrúa Suður-Afríku hjá SP. Sýningunni lauk 27. júní og vakti hún mikla athygli.

Framboðið var einnig kynnt í Þjóðhátíðarmóttöku sendiherrahjóna, sem haldin var fimmtudaginn 19. júní og fjölmargir fastafulltrúar og aðrir fulltrúar úr fastanefndum mættu í.

Forseti Íslands hélt hinn 23. júlí 2008 framboðsræðu í móttöku fastafulltrúa fyrir ýmsa fastafulltrúa, m.a. frá landluktum þróunarríkjum.

Eitt markmiða fastanefndarinnar í starfi sínu að framboði Íslands til öryggisráðsins, er að fulltrúar Íslands hjá Sameinuðu þjóðunum geri starf sitt sýnilegt, þannig að þau gildi sem Ísland stendur fyrir, og geta fulltrúa landsins, verði sem flestum kunnug.

Tækifærin til að gera sig sýnilegan hjá SP eru mörg. Eitt dæmi um slíkt eru fjölmargar ræður og ávörp sem fulltrúar þjóða flytja á formlegum fundum allsherjarþingsins og undirnefnda þess, öryggisráðsins og efnahags- og félagsmálaráðsins og nefndum þess. Strax í upphafi framboðsstarfsins var ákveðið að fjölga verulega þeim skiptum sem fulltrúar Íslands, oftast fastafulltrúi, flytja slíkar ræður og ávörp. Fjöldinn hefur vaxið jafnt og þétt undanfarin ár og var vel á sjötta tug á árinu, en hér áður fyrr var það venjan að árlegur fjöldi fyllti ekki tuginn. Einnig gerir virk þátttaka fulltrúa Íslands í óformlegum viðræðum um ýmis málefni og texta Ísland sýnilegt og hafa allir íslenskir fulltrúar markvisst reynt að verða sýnilegri í viðræðum sem snerta áherslur utanríkisstefnu Íslands.

Annað dæmi um leið til að gera sig sýnilegan er að fastafulltrúi taki að sér varaforsæti í allsherjarþinginu og efnahags- og félagsmálaráðinu (ECOSOC). Fastafulltrúi Íslands var kjörinn einn varaforsæta 62. allsherjarþings og stýrði hann mörgum fundum allsherjarþingsins og flutti ræður fyrir hönd forseta allsherjarþingsins. Þetta gerði fastafulltrúa afar sýnilegan á þessu síðasta ári kosningabaráttunnar. Fastafulltrúi Íslands var einnig varaforsæti ECOSOC í tvö ár, árin 2006 og 2007. Varaforsætið gerði fastafulltrúa og varafastafulltrúa sýnilega með jákvæðum hætti í þessum málaflokki sem er svo mikilvægur fyrir þróunarríkin, meirihluta aðildarríkja SP. Fastafulltrúi stýrði mörgum fundum ECOSOC þessi tvö ár og varafastafulltrúi sinnti m.a. upplýsingaskyldu gagnvart WEOG ríkjahópnum og stýrði óformlegum viðræðum um þema þess hluta sem fastafulltrúi bar ábyrgð á.

Enn önnur leið er að starfsmenn fastanefndar taki að sér að miðla málum (facilitation) í óformlegum viðræðum um ályktanir. Í því felst fundastjórn og óformlegar þreifingar til að sætta deilur milli

aðildarríkja. Varafastafulltrúi hefur á undanförmum árum tekið að sér að miðla málum í viðræðum í 2. nefnd allsherjarþingsins og í ECOSOC um samtals sex ályktanir og í því hlutverki hefur hann stýrt fjölda funda sem hefur gert hann sjálfan, og þar með Ísland, mjög sýnilegt í þróunarmálum. Anna Hjartardóttir, sendiráðsritari, tók að sér að miðla málum í óformlegum viðræðum um ályktun framkvæmdastjórnar þróunaráætlunar SP um Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Einnig gerir seta í stjórnnum nefnda og vinnuhópa landið sýnilegt. Fastafulltrúi sat í fimm manna stjórnarnefnd suður-suður nefndarinnar árin 2006 og 2007 fyrir hönd WEOG ríkjahópsins og Emil Breki Hreggviðsson, sendiráðunautur, var fulltrúi WEOG í vinnuhóp kvennanefndarinnar 2008, sem fjallar um þær kvartanir sem berast nefndinni um brot á mannréttindum kvenna í aðildarríkjum SP. Vinnuhópurinn var skipaður einum fulltrúa frá hverjum ríkjahóp innan SP og skilaði hann sérstakri skýrslu til kvennanefndarinnar. Matthías Geir Pálsson, sendiráðunautur, situr fyrir hönd WEOG ríkja í ráðgjafanefnd fyrir alþjóðaráðstefnu um ný og endurreist lýðræðisríki.

Það er almennt viðurkennd staðreynd að þegar ríki eru í mikilvægri kosningabaráttu innan SP, þá sé það lykilatriði að kosningafulltrúi fastanefndar sé sýnilegur, tali sem flest tungumál og sé vinsæll meðal starfssystkina. María Mjöll Jónsdóttir, kosningafulltrúi, hefur markvisst unnið með það að leiðarljósi.

Að lokum skal geta þess að fastafulltrúi var í mars 2008 óvænt beðinn um að taka að sér hlutverk, sem gerir hann sýnilegan á jákvæðan hátt meðal starfssystkina sinna. Um er að ræða embætti forseta samtaka núverandi og fyrrverandi fastafulltrúa hjá SP, IAPR (International Association of Permanent Representatives).

Hlutverk maka fastafulltrúa er almennt álitid mikilvægt fyrir framboð innan SP. Tækifærin fyrir þátttöku maka eru mörg, en þá helst í margvíslegri félags-, og góðgerðastarfsemi. Anna Birgis, eiginkona fastafulltrúa hefur tekið virkan þátt í slíku starfi. Hún var t.d. formaður makafélags fastafulltrúa hjá SP “Heads of Missions Spouses’ Association” (HOMSA) árin 2005-2007. Hún var einnig fyrst gjaldkeri “UN Delegates’ Womens Club” (UNDWC) og síðan formaður þess félags frá 2007. Stærsta verkefni UNDWK er “Women for Peace”, m.a. fjársöfnun fyrir ungar konur til framhaldsnáms í friðarfræðum við Friðarháskóla SP í Kostaríka. Vegleg menningarhátíð var haldin í því sambandi í sal allsherjarþings SP vorið 2008 og önnur er fyrirhuguð vorið 2009.

## **Stofnun stjórnmalasambanda**

Fastanefndin hefur haft það verkefni að ljúka gerð og undirritun yfirlýsinga um stofnun stjórnmalasambanda við nær öll aðildarríki Sameinuðu þjóðanna. Það er jafnan gert að svonefndri “New York-fyrirmynd” sem þýðir að fastafulltrúar viðkomandi ríkja hjá Sameinuðu þjóðunum undirrita yfirlýsinguna að fengnu umboði ráðuneyta sinna og enginn viðbótarkostnaður hlýst af. Ekki er komið á skiptum á sendiherrum, heldur fara fastanefndirnar í New York að sinni með hin formlegu samskipti milli ríkjanna.

Röksemdir fyrir þessu eru nokkrar. Utanríkisviðskipti Íslendinga hafa margfaldast að umfangi síðustu ár og áratugi og Íslendinga er að finna að störfum æ víðar um heiminn. Stjórnmalasamband auðveldar boðleiðir við ræðisþjónustu.

Þá er í mörgum þessara ríkja að finna viðskiptatækifæri fyrir íslensk fyrirtæki, og er upplýsingum um þau komið á framfæri á heimasíðu ráðuneytisins sem og af viðskiptaþjónustu utanríkisráðuneytisins, VUR.

Loks er þess að geta að fastanefndin hefur látið meira til sín taka í starfi Sameinuðu þjóðanna síðustu ár og á í vaxandi mæli samstarf við fleiri ríki um framgang mála. Einnig hefur þessum ríkjum verið kynnt framboð Íslands til setu í öryggisráðinu og falast eftir stuðningi þeirra.

Hinn 19. september 2007 undirrituðu sendiherrar Kamerún og Íslands samkomulag um stjórnmalasamband ríkjanna. Fimm dögum síðar, 24. september 2007, undirrituðu sendiherrar Saó Tóme og Prinsípe og Íslands samkomulag ríkjanna um upptöku formlegs stjórnmalasambands. Þann 8. febrúar 2008 var skrifað undir samning um stofnun stjórnmalasambands við Fídjieyjar.

Þá eru þrjú ríki enn á lista yfir þau ríki sem til stendur að taka upp stjórnmalasamband við: Bútan, Mið-Afríkulýðveldið og Trínidad og Tóbagó.

Þótt sumt af því sem rætt er við undirskriftarathafnir einkennist meira af almennum velvilja og von um frekari tengsl en beinum og formlegum óskum um tiltekin sambönd, þá hefur komið í ljós í máli margra að þeir væru kunnugir íslenskum sjávarútvegi og því góða orði sem færi af Íslendingum á því sviði. Flestum hefur verið vel kunnugt um deildir jarðhita- og sjávarútvegsháskóla Sameinuðu þjóðanna á Íslandi og hafa haft uppi óskir um að fá að senda þangað nemendur til náms. Þá hafa ýmsir þeirra haft ákveðnar óskir um samstarf um nýtingu sjávarauðlinda.

## **Samstarf Norðurlanda**

Vikulegir fundir fastafultrúa **Norðurlandanna** voru haldnir allt árið 2007 í húsakynnum finnsku fastanefndarinnar. Þar var og fundur utanríkisráðherra Norðurlanda haldinn í september 2007. Norræna samráðið á þessum fundum og fundum annarra norræna embættismanna hér í New York er mikilvæg forsenda íslensku fastanefndarinnar fyrir yfirsýn og innsýn í mál á mörgum sviðum SP starfsins. Það er mikilvægt að viðhalda þessu samráði, að Ísland leggi sitt af mörkum til norræna samstarfsins þar sem tækifæri er til og sýna norræna samstöðu. Ímynd Norðurlandanna innan SP er sterk og þykir mörgum hið hófstilla norræna velferðarkerfi til fyrirmyndar. Það er ánægjulegt að finna að norræna samstarfið í New York er ekki að gefa upp öndina þrátt fyrir aðild þriggja Norðurlanda að ESB og að innan ESB í New York er mikill skilningur á sérstöðu Noregs og Íslands (sem og Liechtenstein í EES-samhengi) gagnvart sambandinu. Oftast virðist gengið út frá því innan ESB að Norðurlöndin þrjú innan sambandsins láti hin tvö fylgjast mjög náið með því sem er að gerjast innan sambandsins. Sem fyrr tók Ísland undir margar ræður ESB í margvíslegum málum.

## **Hópur vestrænna ríkja (WEOG)**

Í WEOG hópnum (Western European and Other States Group) eru fundir yfirleitt haldnir einu sinni í mánuði. Ríkjahópurinn fjallar ekki efnislega um málefni heldur einungis um framboð ríkja úr hópnum til hinna ýmsu nefnda og ráða innan stofnana SP.

## **Málefni sem heyrta beint undir allsherjarþingið**

### **Ársskýrsla aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP**

Fjallað var um ársskýrslu Ban Ki-moon, aðalframkvæmdastjóra, um starfsemi stofnunarinnar á fundi allsherjarþingsins 9. október 2007. Fastafultrúi flutti þar ræðu fyrir hönd Íslands. Í ræðunni var m.a. lögð áhersla á þróunarmál og nýjum áherslum í baráttunni gegn loftslagsbreytingum var fagnað. Ítrekað var að Ísland styddi tillögur um að styrkja skrifstofur SP sem fara með jafnréttismál, öll hryðjuverk voru fordæmd og árangri í endurbótum á meðferð mannréttindamála hjá stofnuninni var fagnað. Þá var einnig lögð áhersla á mikilvægi afvopnunar.

## **Skýrsla efnahags- og félagsmálaráðs SP (ECOSOC)**

Hinn 30. október 2007 fór fram umræða í allsherjarþinginu um skýrslu efnahags- og félagsmálaráðsins (ECOSOC). Fastafulltrúi flutti þar ræðu, en hann var einn af fjórum varaforsetum ráðsins 2007, annað árið í röð. Í ræðu sinni fór hann m.a. í stuttu máli yfir árangur ársins. Á árlegum ráðherrafundi ráðsins, sem haldinn var í Genf í júlí 2007, var lögð áhersla á baráttuna gegn fátækt. Í því sambandi vakti hann sérstaka athygli á mikilvægi jafnréttis kynjanna. Þá var góðum árangri í endurskipulagningu ráðsins fagnað, en bent á að endanlegur árangur réðist af afstöðu aðildarríkja á fundi ráðsins sem haldinn yrði í New York í júlí 2008.

### **Viðskiptabann Bandaríkjanna gegn Kúbu**

Hin hefðbundna tillaga Kúbu um afnám viðskiptabanns Bandaríkjanna var til umræðu 16. árið í röð 30. október 2007. Hún var samþykkt með 184 atkvæðum, 4 ríki (Bandaríkin, Ísrael, Marshallseyjar og Palá) voru á móti og 1 sat hjá (Míkrónesía). Einangrun Bandaríkjanna er nánast alger í þessu máli. Í almenntri umræðu um tillögu Kúbu tóku mörg ríki til máls og fordæmdu viðskiptabannið. Ísland og Noregur tóku undir ræðu ESB. Þar er viðskiptabannið gagnrýnt og áhrif þess á almenning á Kúbu talin mikil, en jafnframt eru viðskiptaáhrif viðskiptabannsins á þriðju ríki gagnrýnd. Stjórnarfar, mannréttindabrot og skortur á frelsi á Kúbu eru einnig gagnrýnd.

### **Mannúðarmál og neyðaraðstoð**

Árleg umræða um mannúðarmál og neyðaraðstoð fór fram í allsherjarþinginu 19. nóvember 2007. Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti þar ávarp, en hann er sá varaforseti efnahags- og félagsmálaráðs SP sem stýrði og hélt utan um störf ráðsins í mannúðarmálum og neyðaraðstoð árið 2007. Hann lagði m.a. áherslu á mikilvægt samræmingarhlutverk SP á svæðum þar sem neyðarástand ríkir. Einnig var fjallað um mikilvægi þess að aðildarríki tryggi nægt fjármagn til slíkrar aðstoðar. Undir þessum dagskrárlið voru samþykktar sex ályktanir og var Ísland meðflutningsríki þeirra allra.

Fastafulltrúi tilkynnti um 560.000 Bandaríkjadala framlag Íslands í sjóð SP til að bregðast við neyðarástandi “Central Emergency Response Fund” á framlagaráðstefnu 13. desember 2007.



### **Alþjóðakjarnorkumálastofnunin**

Hinn 29. október 2007 fóru fram umræður um árlega skýrslu framkvæmdastjóra Alþjóðakjarnorkumálastofnunarinnar, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, um starfsemi stofnunarinnar. Fastafulltrúi flutti ræðu fyrir hönd Íslands af því tilefni og lagði m.a. áherslu á mikilvægt hlutverk stofnunarinnar í alþjóðlegri samvinnu á sviði kjarnorkumála og tæknilegri samvinnu sem miðar að öruggri og sjálfbærri notkun kjarnorku í friðsamlegum tilgangi. Þeim árangri sem náðst hefur varðandi kjarnorkuáætlun Norður-Kóreu var fagnað, en staða mála varðandi kjarnorkuáætlun Írans sögð áhyggjuefni. Loks var stuðningur Íslands við stofnunina og starf hennar áréttaður.

### **Palestína og ástandið í Mið-Austurlöndum**

Dagana 29. nóvember til 4. desember 2007 fór fram umræða í allsherjarþinginu um Palestínu og ástandið í Mið-Austurlöndum.

Fastafulltrúi flutti ræðu á fundinum þann 30. nóvember þar sem hann áréttaði stuðning íslenskra stjórnvalda við friðarferlið fyrir botni Miðjarðarhafs og áframhaldandi samningaviðræður deiluaðila í kjölfar fundarins í Annapolis. Hann lýsti jafnframt yfir sérstökum áhyggjum af alvarlegu og versnandi ástandi mannúðarmála á Gasasvæðinu, þar sem Ísrael hefði sett á hömlur á aðgang inn og út af svæðinu. Fastafulltrúi lagði í ávarpi sínu m.a. áherslu á aukna aðkomu og hlutverk kvenna í friðarferlinu og nefndi þar sérstaklega friðarnefnd palestínskra og ísraelskra kvenna (International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace) og hvatti til þess að nefndin fengi formlega aðkomu að friðarferlinu fyrir botni Miðjarðarhafs á grundvelli ályktunar öryggisráðsins nr. 1325 um konur, frið og öryggi.

Að umræðunni lokinni voru greidd atkvæði um sex ályktanir um málefni Palestínu og Mið-Austurlanda. Efni ályktananna var lítið breytt frá fyrri árum. Ísland greiddi nú, eins og undanfarin ár, atkvæði með ályktunum um stöðu Jerúsalemborgar, sérstaka upplýsingaáætlun innan upplýsingadeildar SP um Palestínu og um friðsamlega lausn Palestínumálsins, en sat hjá við atkvæðagreiðslu um ályktanir um Gólanhæðir, nefnd um óumdeilanleg réttindi Palestínumanna og sérstaka deild fyrir réttindi Palestínufólks á aðalskrifstofu SP.

Öryggisráð SP er meginvettvangur fyrir umfjöllun um ástandið á svæðinu, en þar á sér stað reglubundin mánaðarleg umræða um málefni Mið-Austurlanda.

## **Styrking allsherjarþingsins**

Í ályktun allsherjarþingsins nr. 61/292 var ákveðið að stofna sérstakan vinnuhóp til að vinna að styrkingu allsherjarþingsins. Vinnuhópnum var formlega ýtt úr vör í nóvember 2007 og hélt hann nokkra fundi á 62. allsherjarþingi þar sem farið var yfir alla helstu þætti í skipulagi allsherjarþingsins. Mikið var deilt um hvort fjárfesta ætti í tækninýjungum til að flýta fyrir talningu við atkvæðagreiðslu. Litill gangur er í málinu.

## **Málefni hafsins**

Allsherjarþing SP fjallar árlega um málefni hafsins í tveim ályktunum sem fjalla annarsvegar um hafrétt (Oceans and Law of the Sea) og hinsvegar um fiskveiðar. Ályktanirnar varða grundvallarhagsmunum Íslands og málaflokk þar sem Ísland hefur ávallt verði virkur þátttakandi. Sérstakar samningaviðræður fara fram um ályktanirnar og í ár var samningaviðræðum um þær báðar skipt í tvennt. Rætt var um hafréttarályktunina dagana 1. til 5. október og 26. til 30. nóvember 2007 en um fiskveiðiályktunina 8. til 11. október og 13. til 16. nóvember 2007. Þjóðrættarfræðingur ráðuneytisins sat alla fundina um báðar ályktanirnar en skrifstofustjóri auðlinda- og umhverfisskrifstofu utanríkisráðuneytisins sótti einnig síðari hluta hafréttarviðræðnanna. Fastanefndin fylgdist einnig með viðræðunum.

Ísland lagði í viðræðum um hafréttarályktunina m.a. áherslu á landgrunnsból og erfðauðlindir hafsins. Í samningaviðræðum um fiskveiðiályktunina reyndust hákarlaveiðar, einkum afuggun hákarla, erfitt viðfangsefni. Vernd viðkvæmra vistkerfa var einnig mikið rædd en sátt náðist um þessi mál sem og önnur. Í heild gengu samningaviðræðurnar vel að þessu sinni. Ísland tók að venju virkan þátt í viðræðunum um báðar ályktanirnar, átti frumkvæði að nýjum greinum í ályktununum og beitti sér gjarnan fyrir málamiðlunum og framgangi viðræðnanna.

Ísland var meðflutningsríki beggja ályktananna þegar um þær var fjallað í allsherjarþinginu og flutti fastafulltrúi ítarlega ræðu af því tilefni.

Almennar upplýsingar um hafréttarmálefni á vettvangi SP má finna á heimasíðu hafréttarskrifstofu SP:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm>

**Hnattrænt mat á ástandi hafanna: Fundur í stýrihópi fyrir  
“Assessment of Assessments” 19.-20. júní 2008**

Fundur í stýrihópi fyrir “*Assessment of Assessments*” (AA) var haldinn 19. – 20. júní 2008 í höfuðstöðvum SP. AA er verkefni til undirbúnings ákvörðunar allsherjarþingsins um hvort eigi á vegum SP að gera alheimsmat á ástandi hafsins, m.a. með tilliti til mengunar og áhrifa hennar á samfélagslega þætti. Alheimsmatið yrði grundvöllur ákvarðanatöku og stefnumótunar stjórnvalda í málefnum hafsins. AA er unnið af hópi sérfræðinga undir stjórn UNEP og IOC/UNESCO “Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission”.

Fulltrúi Íslands í AA stýrihópnum er Jón Erlingur Jónasson, sendifulltrúi, og sat hann fundinn. Alls eiga sæti í stýrihópnum fulltrúar 18 aðildarríkja SP og af þeim eiga vestræn ríki þrjú fulltrúa. Þetta er þriðji fundur stýrihópsins á jafn mörgum árum. Á dagskrá voru tvær skýrslur sérfræðingahópsins, skýrslu stýrihópsins til ICP, “Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea”, með hvaða hætti aðildaríki SP geti komið með athugasemdir við vinnu sérfræðingahópsins og fjármögnun AA.

Vinna sérfræðinganna hefur gengið samkvæmt áætlun síðustu 12 mánuði þrátt fyrir að aðeins hefur tekist að fjármagna um ¼ áætlaðs kostnaðar. Fram kom að FAO hefur ekki haft tök á því að leggja fram þá vinnu sem þyrfti til þess að ástandsmat stofnunarinnar um lífandi auðlindir hafsins verði metin af sérfræðingunum.

Endurskoðuð áætlun um lok verkefnisins gerir ráð fyrir því að skýrsla AA verði kynnt fyrir allsherjarþinginu árið 2009. Stýrihópurinn var samþykktur þeirri innihaldslýsingu lokaskýrslu AA sem lögð var fram, þó svo að einhverra breytinga væri að vænta á lokaútgáfu hennar.

Ályktun allsherjarþingsins 60/30 gerir ráð fyrir því að aðildarríkin geti gert athugasemdir við framvindu AA vinnunnar. Samþykkt var að skýrsla stýrihópsins til IOC yrði um leið framvinduskýrsla til aðildarlandanna og gefið yrði tækifæri fram í september 2008 að koma með athugasemdir. Ákveðið var að næsti fundur stýrihópsins yrði haldinn í maí 2009.

Ný kostnaðaráætlun gerir ráð fyrir því að það sem eftir er verksins kosti um eina milljón Bandaríkjadala.

**Níundi fundur hins óformlega samráðsvettvangs SP um málefni hafsins og hafréttarmál (UNICPOLOS), 23.-27. júní**

Níundi fundur hins óformlega samráðsvettvangs SP um málefni hafsins og hafréttarmál (UNICPOLOS) fór fram dagana 23. - 27. júní. Af Íslands hálfu sótti fundinn Matthías G. Pálsson, sendiráðunautur við

fastanefnd Íslands hjá SP. Fundir samráðsvettvangsins eru þáttur í undirbúningi fyrir reglubundna umfjöllun allsherjarþingsins um málefni hafsins og hafréttarmál. Er þar fjallað um þróun í málefnum hafsins og hvernig auka megi samstarf og samhæfingu milli stjórnvalda aðildarríkja og milli alþjóðastofnana á þessu sviði.

Aðalumfjöllunarefni þessa fundar var öryggi á hafinu og voru ýmsir þættir þess viðfangsefnis ræddir í þau en aðallega var þó rætt um öryggismál út frá alþjóðlegri glæpastarfsemi, s.s. sjórána, eiturlyfjasmygls og smygls á fólki, ólöglegra fiskveiða og smygls á ólöglega veiddum fiski. Einnig var rætt um öryggi fólks á hafinu, bæði fólks í hafsnauð og einnig stöðu flóttafólks á sjó.

Fimm umræðuhópar fjölluðu um mismunandi atriði sem tengjast þessum viðfangsefnum. Fyrsti hópurinn ræddi um ógnir við öryggi á hafinu og viðbrögð við þeim, aðallega varðandi sjórán. Annar ræddi um varnir gegn og hindrun á alþjóðlegri glæpastarfsemi á sjó, sá þriðji ræddi um reynslu sem safnast hefði á þessu sviði og vandamál varðandi öryggi á hafinu. Fjórði hópurinn ræddi um öryggi fólks á hafinu og sá fimmti ræddi um aukna alþjóðlega samvinnu á sviði öryggis á hafinu og uppbyggingu þekkingar og getu á þessu sviði.

Fulltrúar margra ríkja fluttu almennar ræður þar sem bæði var fjallað um áður nefnt meginefni fundarins en einnig var vikið að öðrum málefnum sem eru ofarlega á baugi. Ísland lagði fram og fékk samþykka tillögu, í samráði við fulltrúa FAO, Ara Guðmundsson, varðandi aðgerðaáætlun um aukið öryggi fiskimanna og fiskiskipa.

Í lok fundarins fóru samkvæmt venju fram samningaviðræður um niðurstöðutexta fundarins varðandi öryggi á hafinu. Viðræðurnar byggðu á tillögum formanna vinnuhópsins, Lori Ridgeway frá Kanada og Paul Badji frá Senegal og var almenn sátt um þær. Viðræður voru átakalítlar en samt sem áður tímafrekar og lauk ekki fyrir en síðla kvölds 27. júní.

Tillögur vinnuhópsins eru sendar forseta allsherjarþingsins og að jafnaði teknar upp í ályktun allsherjarþingsins um málefni hafsins.

#### **Fundur aðildarríkja hafréttarsamningsins**

Í tengslum við kosningar á fundi aðildarríkja hafréttarsamningsins í júní 2007 komu fram tillögur frá afrísku- og asísku ríkjahópunum um að fækka WEOG-sætunum í Landgrunnsnefnd SP og Alþjóðahafréttardómstólnum frá því sem nú er, en bæði í nefndinni og dómstólnum eru 21 sæti.

Í hafréttarsamningnum er kveðið á um að hver ríkjahópur fái a.m.k. 3 sæti en samkomulag hefur verið á milli ríkjahópanna um skiptingu

umframsætanna þannig að Asíu- og Afríkuhóparnir fái hvor um sig fimm sæti, WEOG og GRULAC 4 og Austur-Evrópuhópurinn 3.

Tillögur Afríku byggðu á því að út frá hlutfallsskiptingu miðað við ríkjafjölda í ríkjahópum hafi WEOG-ríkin of mörg sæti. Ákveðið var á fundunum 2007 að haggja ekki við þeirri sætaskiptingu sem ríkjandi hafði verið en ræða málið fyrir næsta aðildarríkjafund sem haldinn var í júní 2008. WEOG-hópurinn ræddi málið á óformlegum fundum í kjölfarið, m.a. um viðbrögð WEOG við tillögum afríska ríkjahópsins.

Auk þess var haldinn óformlegur fundur ríkjahópa innan SP um þetta mál þann 27. mars 2008. Á þeim fundi lýsti Belgía, sem var í forsæti WEOG í mars, því yfir að WEOG-ríkin sæju ekki ástæðu til að breyta núverandi fyrirkomulagi, en margt mælti hinsvegar á móti því að slíkt yrði gert.

WEOG-hópnum fannst röksemdir fyrir breytingum óljósar sem og hvað myndi vinnast með breytingunum, ekki hafi verið ljóst að nokkuð væri að í starfinu fyrir. Lögð var áhersla á að breytingar samkvæmt tillögunum gætu valdið nýju ójafnvægi og óljóst að þetta samræmist ákvæðum hafréttarsamningsins. Aðrir ríkjahópar óskuðu eftir að fá þessa afstöðu skriflega svo hægt væri að fara yfir málið.

Átjándi fundur aðildarríkja hafréttarsamningsins var haldinn dagana 13.-20. júní sl., undir forsæti Yuriy Sergejev frá Úkraínu. Af Íslands hálfu sóttu fundinn Tómas H. Heiðar, þjóðréttarfræðingur utanríkisráðuneytisins, og Matthías G. Pálsson sendiráðsnatur.

Fundurinn hófst á því að kosnir voru sjö dómara í Alþjóðahafréttardómstólinn. Kosningu hlutu frambjóðendur Þýskalands, Líbanon, Brasilíu, Indlands, Grænhöfðaeyja, Alsír og Rússlands.

Forsvarsmenn Alþjóðahafréttardómsins, Alþjóðahafsbotnsstofnunarinnar og landgrunnsnefndarinnar gerðu grein fyrir störfum þeirra og skýrslur þeirra voru ræddar, sem og rekstrar- og fjármál Alþjóðahafréttardómsins. Einnig var fjallað um endurskoðun skilafrests krafna til landgrunnsnefndarinnar þar sem nú er ljóst að mörg þróunarríki munu ekki ná að undirbúa kröfur áður en núgildandi tímafrestur rennur út, sem er í maí 2009. Á síðasta degi fundalotunnar náðist samkomulag um að aðildarríkjum verði ekki skylt að leggja inn fullmótaðar kröfur vegna landgrunns fyrir maí 2009, heldur nægi að leggja inn bráðabirgðaupplýsingar sem gefa til kynna ytri mörk landgrunnsins innan þess tímafrests, ásamt því að veita upplýsingar um stöðu vinnu að kröfunum.

Það viðfangsefni sem tók mestan tíma var hinsvegar skipting sæta í Alþjóðahafsréttardómstólnum og landgrunnsnefndinni á milli svæðahópa sbr. hér að framan. Mikil óbilgirmi einkenndi framgang Afrikuhópsins sérstaklega, en að lokum var samþykkt tillaga frá Vesturlandahópnum um að ákvörðun um sætaskiptinguna verði tekin innan árs og áðurgreind tillaga Afríku- og Asíuhópnum tekin til sérstakrar skoðunar, þótt aðrar tillögur verið einnig skoðaðar.

### **Kosningar**

Hinn 16. október 2007 kaus allsherjarþingið fimm ríki til setu í öryggisráðinu fyrir tímabilið 2008-2009. Búrkína Fasó og Líbía voru sjálfkjörin í sæti Afríkuríkja og Víetnam í sæti Asíu. Í kosningum um sæti Austur-Evrópu og ríkja Mið- og Suður Ameríku og Karíbahafs (GRULAC) voru tveir frambjóðendur um hvort sæti. Kostaríka hlaut mun fleiri atkvæði en Dóminíska lýðveldið í fyrstu tveimur umferðum kosninganna sem varð til þess að Dóminíska lýðveldið dró framboð sitt til baka og eftirlét Kostaríku sæti GRULAC. Baráttan milli Tékklands og Króatíu var nokkuð jöfn en þó ákváðu Tékkar að draga framboð sitt til baka eftir aðra umferð líkt og Dóminíska lýðveldið. Árið 2008 verður öryggisráðið því skipað eftirfarandi kjörnum ríkjum: Belgíu, Indónesíu, Ítalíu, Panama og Suður-Afríku auk nýkjörnu ríkjanna Búrkína Fasó, Kostaríku, Króatíu, Líbíu og Víetnam.

Þann 8. nóvember kaus allsherjarþingið 18 meðlimi ECOSOC fyrir tímabilið 2008-2010. Auk þess lét Þýskaland Liechtenstein formlega eftir sæti sitt fyrir árið 2008. Sjálfkjörið var í öllum ríkjahópum og voru eftirfarandi ríki því kjörin til ráðsins með auknum meirihluta atkvæða í fyrstu umferð: Kamerún, Vestur-Kongó, Mósambík og Níger úr hópi Afríkuríkja; Kína, Suður-Kórea, Malasía og Pakistan úr hópi Asíuríkja; Moldóva, Pólland og Rússland frá Austur-Evrópu; Brasilía, Santa-Lúsía og Úrúgvæ frá GRULAC; og Ísland, Svíþjóð, Bretland og Nýja-Sjáland úr WEOG-hópnum. Það vakti athygli að Ísland fékk flest atkvæði innan WEOG-hópsins og einnig að fleiri auðir seðlar voru í kosningu um sæti WEOG-hópsins en annarra hópa.

Allsherjarþingið kaus einnig í stjórn umhverfisáætlunar SP (Governing Council of UNEP) þann 15. nóvember. Kosið var til fjögurra ára, 2008-2011, og var sjálfkjörið í öllum hópum. Því voru eftirfarandi 29 ríki kjörin til stjórnarinnar með lófataki: Bahamaeyjar, Bangladess, Benín, Fídjeyjar, Finnland, Gínea, Holland, Hvíta-Rússland, Indland, Íran, Ísrael, Ítalía, Kasakstan, Kólumbía, Kongó, Kostaríka, Króatía, Kúba, Malí, Míritíus, Mexíkó, Mónakó, Níger, Sádi-Arabía, Sómalía, Spánn, Túnis, Túvalú, Ungverjaland og Vestur-Kongó. Á sama fundi voru Bangladess, Jamaíka, Kenía, Kína, Níger og Suður-Kórea kjörin án

atkvæðagreiðslu í áætlana- og samræmingarnefndina (Committee on Programme and Coordination).

Hinn 2. nóvember voru staðfestar skipanir og kosið í ýmsar nefndir er heyra undir fimmtu nefnd allsherjarþingsins. Þessar nefndir eru: Ráðgjafarnefnd um stjórnsýslu- og fjárlagamál (Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, ACABQ), framlaganefnd SP (Committee on Contributions), fjárfestinganefnd SP (Investments Committee), stjórnsýsludómstóll SP (United Nations Administrative Tribunal), endurskoðunarráð (Board of Auditors) og ný nefnd, sjálfstæð ráðgjafarnefnd um endurskoðun (Independent Audit Advisory Committee).

Á sjötta þingi aðildarríkja Alþjóðasakamáladómstólsins var kosið í þrjár stöður dómara sem höfðu losnað við afsögn dómara. Fimm frambjóðendur voru um stöðurnar, frambjóðendur frá Japan og Frakklandi hlutu kosningu í fyrstu umferð en fjórar umferðir þurfti til að kjósa á milli frambjóðenda frá Trinidad og Tóbagó, Panama og Úganda sem varð að lokum hlutskarpastur. Fumiko Saiga frá Japan mun sitja við dómsdólinn fram til 10. mars 2009 og má sækjast eftir endurkjöri en Bruno Cotte frá Frakklandi og Daniel Nsereko frá Úganda munu gegna starfinu til 10. mars 2012.

Þann 17. janúar fóru fram kosningar í nefnd um afnám kynþáttamisréttis. Þeir níu sem náðu kjöri voru frá Indlandi, Gvatemala, Rússlandi, Búrkína Fasó, Bandaríkjunum, Kína, Rúmeníu, Tansaníu og Kólumbíu. Haití og Jemen náðu ekki kjöri og áður hafði Aserbaidsjan dregið framboð sitt til baka.

Hinn 30. janúar var kosið um eitt sæti dómara við Hafréttardómstólinn vegna afsagnar dómara frá Kína. Eini frambjóðandinn á sérstökum fundi aðildarríkja Hafréttarsáttmálans var kínverskur og var hann kjörinn með 136 af 137 greiddum atkvæðum.

Í byrjun febrúar 2008 var haldinn skipulagsfundur ECOSOC og var þá gengið frá skipunum og tilnefningum í eftirtaldar stöður og nefndir: Commission on Social Development, Committee of Experts on Public Administration, Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters og Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Á fundi allsherjarþingsins þann 4. júní 2008 fór fram kjör forseta allsherjarþingsins og var Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann frá Níkaragva einróma kjörinn sem forseti 63. allsherjarþings SP. Áður en hann hóf stjórnmaláþátttöku var hann kaþólskur prestur. Hann var utanríkisráðherra Níkaragva í stjórn Sandinista árin 1979 til 1990. Hann

leit aðeins til fortíðar í ræðu sinni þegar hann var kjörinn en lagði áherslu á að leggja deilur fortíðar á hilluna.

Tuttugu og einn varaforseti þingins voru einnig kosnir. Þar af sextán varaforsetar frá ríkjahópunum fimm (fulltrúar fastaríkjanna 5 í öryggisráðinu eru sjálfkjörnir) og voru fastafulltrúar Portúgal og Spánar kosnir sem fulltrúar vestræna hópsins (WEOG).

Í kjölfar kjörs forsetans á ofangreindum fundi allsherjarþingsins fóru fram kosningar í stjórnir (bureau) undirnefnda allsherjarþingsins, þ.e. kosningar formanna, þriggja varaformanna og ritara (rapporteur).

Í fyrstu nefnd var Marco Antonio Suazo frá Hondúras kosinn formaður, í annari nefnd Uche Joy Ogwu frá Nígeríu, í þriðju nefnd Frank Major frá Hollandi, í fjórðu nefnd Jorge Arguello frá Argentínu, í fimmtu nefnd Gabor Brodi frá Ungverjalandi og í sjöttu nefnd var Hamid Al Bayati frá Írak kosinn formaður.

Þann 21. maí 2008 kaus allsherjarþingið 15 ríki til setu í mannréttindaráðinu fyrir tímabilið sem hefst í júní 2008 og lýkur 2011. Í framboði voru 19 ríki, samkeppni var í þremur ríkjahópum, WEOG, Austur-Evrópu og Asíu, en engin samkeppni var um sæti Afríku og GRULAC. Ríkin sem náðu kosningu voru: Argentína, Barein, Brasilía, Bretland, Búrkína Fasó, Chile, Frakkland, Gabon, Gana, Japan, Kórea, Pakistan, Sambía, Slóvakía og Ungverjaland. Þau ríki sem ekki náðu kjöri voru Srí Lanka, Austur-Tímor, Spánn og Serbía. Til að ná kosningu þarf að ná þeim fjölda atkvæða sem nemur meirihluta aðildarríkja, þ.e. 97 atkvæðum.

Þann 13. júní 2008, á 18. fundi aðildarríkja hafréttarsamnings SP, voru kjörnir sjö dómamar til Alþjóðlega hafréttardómsins. Kjörtímabilið hefst 1. október 2008 og er níu ár. Upphaflega hafði verið tilkynnt um 16 framboð en sex þeirra höfðu verið dregin til baka þegar kom að kosningunum. Rudiger Wolfrum frá Þýskalandi, Joseph Akl frá Líbanon, Vicente Marotta Rangel frá Brasilíu, P. Chandrasekhara Rao frá Indlandi og Jose Luis Jesus frá Grænhöfðaeyjum voru endurkjörnir og Boualem Bouguetaia frá Alsír og Vladimir Golitsyn frá Rússlandi voru kjörnir í fyrsta sinn. Þeir frambjóðendur sem ekki náðu kjöri voru frá Angóla, Sierra Leóne og Fídjieyjum.

### **Endurbætur á starfsemi SP - Eftirfylgni leiðtogafundar SP 2005**

Þegar 62. allsherjarþingið var sett átti enn eftir að ljúka viðræðum um eftirfylgni leiðtogafundar SP í september 2005 á nokkrum sviðum. Samningaviðræður á grundvelli lokaskjals leiðtogafundarins voru um



stækkun öryggisráðsins og endurbætur á vinnubrögðum þess, aðgerðir gegn hryðjuverkum, endurbætur á rekstri skrifstofu SP, endurskoðun verkefna og umhverfismál. Einnig var fjallað um tillögur hóps háttsettra einstaklinga um samræmingu á aðgerðum SP í mannúðar-, umhverfis- og þróunarmálum.

**Aðgerðir gegn hryðjuverkum:** Þann 4. desember 2007 var haldinn óformlegur fundur í allsherjarþinginu til að fara yfir stöðu við framkvæmd heildarstefnu SP í aðgerðum gegn hryðjuverkum (global counter-terrorism strategy) sem samþykkt var í september 2006. Á fundinum fluttu m.a. aðalframkvæmdastjóri SP, Ban Ki-moon og Srgjan Kerim, forseti allsherjarþingsins, ávörp. Í þeim var rætt stuttlega um heildarstefnu SP, mikilvægi þessa málaflokks og nauðsyn þess að þjóðir heims sameinuðust um framkvæmd stefnunnar. Gafst aðildarríkjum SP kostur á að ræða um afstöðu sína til ólíkra þátta í heildarstefnunni. Fulltrúar fjölda ríkja tóku til máls og að jafnaði studdu þeir heildarstefnuna. Þeir lýstu því síðan hvað viðkomandi ríki höfðu framkvæmt á þessu sviði. Ætlunin er að endurskoða heildarstefnuna eftir að hún hefur verið í gildi í 2 ár, þ.e. í september 2008 og þessi óformlegi fundur var þáttur í undirbúningi endurskoðunarinnar. Óformlegur vinnuhópur til að undirbúa endurskoðun heildarstefnunnar hittist síðan í nokkrum skipti til að semja drög að ályktun um heildarstefnuna. Tilgangurinn var ekki að endurskoða stefnuna efnislega heldur að athuga framkvæmd hennar og stuðla að styrkari framkvæmd stefnunnar í starfi SP og hjá aðildarríkjum. Á fundunum var um mikið málþóf því ýmis ríki tóku upp gömul þrætuepli, vildu opna umræður um þau og koma þeim inn í þessa ályktun. Á endanum náðist þó sátt um ályktunardrög sem samþykkja á í september 2008.

Sérstök nefnd um aðgerðir gegn hryðjuverkum fundaði 25. og 26. febrúar og 6. mars 2008 undir stjórn Rohan Perera frá Srí Lanka. Byrjað var á hefðbundnum verkefnum og ýmsum formsatriðum hjá nefndinni. Eftir það tóku við umræður um aðalefni fundarins, annarsvegar gerð alþjóðlegs sáttmála um aðgerðir gegn hryðjuverkum og hinsvegar um þörfina á að kalla saman nefnd háttsettra aðila til að fjalla um þetta efni.

Dagana 26. febrúar til 6. mars hittust áhugasamir fulltrúar um þetta efni á tvíhliða fundum, undir stjórn Mariu Telalian frá Grikklandi, sem hafði einnig átt fjölda tvíhliða funda með ríkjum um sama efni vikurnar á undan. Skýrsla hennar til nefndarinnar í upphafi fundalotunnar var hæfilega bjartsýn og hún hvatti ríki til sáttmála um alþjóðlegan sáttmála um aðgerðir gegn hryðjuverkum.

Sami skoðanaágreiningur og áður var uppi um gamalkunnug mál, þ.e. hvort og þá hvernig eigi að skilgreina hugtakið „terrorism“ og hvort „State Terrorism“ eigi að falla undir sáttmálann. Ekki náðist heldur botn í það hvort halda ætti fund háttsettra aðila til að fjalla um alþjóðlegan sáttmála um aðgerðir gegn hryðjuverkum, þar bar m.a. á milli hvort halda ætti slíkan fund til að vinna í sáttmálanum eða til þess að samþykkja hann eftir að gengið hefði verið frá honum.

Afrakstur þessarar fundalotu nefndarinnar um aðgerðir gegn hryðjuverkum var því, eins og áður, lítill sem enginn, fyrir utan það að halda málefnum lifandi með þá von í huga að afstaða ríkja breytist varðandi þau ágreiningsefni sem uppi eru.

Í lok fundarins skoraði nefndin á 6. nefnd allsherjarþings SP að stofna vinnuhóp til að vinna að því að fullgera sáttmálann á 63. allsherjarþingi (2008-2009) og ræða hvort kalla ætti saman áðurnefndan fund háttsettra aðila.

**Stækkun öryggisráðsins og endurbætur á vinnubrögðum þess:** Enn er fjallað um endurbætur á öryggisráðinu, fjölgun í því og starfsaðferðir. Um þessi mál hefur verið rætt á fimmtánda ár í sérstökum vinnuhópi allsherjarþingsins (OEWG) þar sem öll ríki SP sitja.

Í ræðu Íslands á fundi 13. nóvember 2007 sagði að afstaða ríkja í málinu lægi fyrir. Bent var á að allir virtust sammála um að umbótum í starfi SP væri ekki lokið fyrir en að öryggisráðinu yrði breytt. Ekki væri lengur hægt að miða skipan ráðsins við þann pólitíska veruleika sem við blasti í lok seinni heimstyrjaldarinnar þegar ríki SP voru ekki nema rúmlega fjórðungur af núverandi aðildarríkjum. Í ræðunni sagði og að Ísland vilji að fastaríkjum og kjörnum verði fjölgað og að starfsaðferðir ráðsins verði lagaðar að breyttum tímum, t.d. með því að auka gagnsæi í starfsemi þess. Ísland hefði stutt tillögur svokallaðra G-4 ríkja, en til að samkomulag náist verði aðildarríki SP að sýna sveigjanleika og e.t.v. samþykkja tillögur um lausnir þar sem ekkert þeirra fær allt sem það vill. Svo sem áður er deilt um hvort fjölga eigi bæði í föstum og kjörnum sætum, hversu mörg ný ríki eigi að koma inn í ráðið, hvort ný föst ríki eigi að fá neitunarvald eins og þau fimm föstu sem þar eru fyrir, hvort opna eigi fundi öryggisráðsins meira en orðið er o.m.fl.

Á fundi 14. desember 2007 flutti fastafulltrúi ávarp fyrir hönd Norðurlandanna þar sem áréttað var m.a. að málið hefði verið til umræðu undanfarinn einn og hálfan áratug án þess að samkomulag hefði náðst. Breytingar á öryggisráðinu væru mikilvægur þáttur í þeim umbótum á starfi SP sem leiðtogafundurinn 2005 ákvað. Fram kom að Norðurlöndin vilji að fastaríkjum og kjörnum ríkjum ráðsins verði

fjölgað og að starfsaðferðir þess verði lagaðar að breyttum tímum, t.d. með því að auka gagnsæi í starfsemi þess. Jafnframt var lögð áhersla á möguleika smærri ríkja til að sitja í ráðinu. Þetta var í fyrsta skipti í mörg ár að Norðurlöndin fluttu sameiginlega ræðu um þessi mál.

Forseti 62. allsherjarþings skipaði svonefnt "Task Force" - verkefnisteymi - sem fundaði með þátttökuríkjum um málið, m.a. fastafulltrúum Norðurlandanna. Teymið var svartsýnt á að takast mætti að ná niðurstöðu á þessu allsherjarþingi. Afstaða einstakra ríkja og ríkjahópa væri mjög föst í áður mörkuðum línunum.

Reynt hefur verið að mynda meirihlutastuðning við tímabundið fyrirkomulag - þar sem engin föst sæti yrðu en endurkjósanleg sæti til lengri tíma en tvö ár o.fl. kæmu í staðinn

Hinn 11. júní 2008 skilaði vinnuteymið af sér skýrslu. Þar er m.a. sagt, að málið sé á krossgötum, pólitískar málamiðlanir þurfi að koma til ef ná eigi einhverjum endurbótum fram. Það sé líka stefna út af fyrir sig, að reyna að koma í veg fyrir endurbætur eða breytingar á öryggisráðinu og etv. sé það hreinlega stefna einhverra ríkja. Mikill meirihluti ríkja vilji hinsvegar að formlegar samningaviðræður fari af stað. Skýrsla teymisins var síðan rædd allan 17. júní í allsherjarþinginu og kom þar ekkert nýtt né markvert fram.

**Umhverfismál:** Umræður um umbætur á störfum SP í umhverfismálum hafa staðið yfir frá leiðtogafundinum 2005. Allsherjarþingið hélt óformlegan fund um málið 26. október 2007. Þróunarríkin leggja áherslu á að byggja verði á núverandi kerfi og að forðast beri byltingar á þessu sviði. Þau eru ekki sammála, en leggja flest áherslu á að virða beri alla umhverfissamninga og að ekki megi takmarka þessa umræðu við umhverfismálin því þau séu órjúfanlegur hluti af heildarumfjölluninni um sjálfbæra þróun. Þau sjá flest enga ástæðu til að setja á fót nýja umhverfisstofnun. Sum Vesturlanda leggja áherslu á samræmingu og samstarf þeirra sem nú þegar vinna að alþjóðaumhverfismálum og vilja forðast að færast of mikið í fang. Þau vilja byggja á núverandi stofnunum en ekki breyta UNEP í umhverfisstofnun. Bandaríkin telja að málum sé vel komið fyrir í núverandi kerfi og vilja alls ekki stofna nýja umhverfisstofnun. Ísland er á sama máli og ESB, sem vill ganga mun lengra en allir aðrir í umbótum með því að sameina og samræma störf á þessu sviði. ESB ríkin, Ísland og Úrúgvæ eru einu ríkin sem lýst hafa yfir vilja til að breyta UNEP í umhverfisstofnun.

Föstudaginn 2. maí 2008 héldu formennirnir tveir, fastafulltrúar Mexíkó og Sviss, fund um málið. Fundurinn var haldinn til að kynna tillögu þeirra um ályktun um styrkingu á starfsemi SP á sviði

umhverfismála. Byggir hún á upplýsingum sem þeir hafa fengið frá aðildarríkjum á nokkrum fundum sem þeir hafa haldið undanfarin ár.

Í kjölfarið voru haldnir fundir í maí, júní og júlí þar sem aðildarríkjum var gefinn kostur á að tjá sig um drögin. Eftir það lögðu formennirnir fram endurskoðuð drög og stefnt er að því að leggja hana fyrir yfirstandandi allsherjarþing. Ekki er lagt til að bylta kerfinu, heldur breyta því í skrefum og sníða af helstu vankanta.

**Endurbætur á rekstri skrifstofu SP:** Í lokaskjali leiðtogafundarins 2005 var m.a. fjallað um endurbætur á rekstri skrifstofu SP. Verkinu miðar hægt, en umfjöllun um þessi málefni hefur einna helst farið fram á vettvangi 5. nefndar allsherjarþingsins, sem og í sérstökum vinnuhópi er fjallar um endurskoðun á umboðum allsherjarþingsins.

Í byrjun apríl 2008 kallaði forseti allsherjarþingsins til óformlegs fundar allsherjarþingsins um endurbætur á stjórnskipulagi SP. Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti þar ávarp fyrir hönd Norðurlandanna sem vakti töluverða athygli. Í ávarpinu var lögð áhersla á mikilvægi þess að stjórnskipulag SP endurspegli sívaxandi verkefnasvið samtakanna og að endurbótum sem samþykktar voru á ráðherrafundinum árið 2005 verði haldið áfram. Þörfin á endurbótum á mannauðsstjórnunarkerfi SP var sérstaklega áréttuð, sem og þörfin á endurbótum á undirbúningi og samþykkt fjárlaga samtakanna. Þá var lögð áhersla á að þrátt fyrir að endurbætur hafi töluverðan kostnað í för með sér til skamms tíma lítið, þá beri að líta á þær sem fjárfestingu til framtíðar sem muni gera SP kleift að starfa betur að þeim verkefnum sem þeim er falið.

**Endurskoðun verkefna á vegum SP:** Áfram var unnið að endurskoðun verkefna SP (UN Mandate Review). Haustið 2007 voru samþykkt grunnsjónarmið endurskoðunarinnar. Í byrjun ársins 2008 sendu formenn endurskoðunarvinnuhópsins, sendiherrar Nýja-Sjálands og Namibíu, bréf til allra fastanefnda þar sem gerð var tillaga um aðferðafræði við endurskoðunina. Þegar var búið að ákveða að skipta endurskoðuninni upp í 9 klasa eftir efnislegum viðfangsefnum verkefnanna: 1) Viðhald alþjóðlegs friðar og öryggis; 2) Sjálfbær efnahagsbati og sjálfbærri þróun; 3) Þróunarmál í Afríku; 4) Efling mannréttinda; 5) Skilvirk samhæfing mannúðaraðstoðar; 6) Starf á sviði réttlætis og alþjóðalaga; 7) Afvopnunarmál; 8) Barátta gegn eiturlyfjum, glæpum og alþjóðlegum hryðjuverkum og 9) Stjórnsýsla, skipulag og önnur mál. Lagt var til að byrja á klasa 5, en þar voru 279 verkefni í gangi sem eru eldri en 5 ára en hafa verið endurnýjuð síðan.

Fundað var í nefndinni hinn 27. febrúar 2008 og aftur 17. mars og var þá búið að flokka mál undir klasa 5.

Aðildarríkin í heild eru fylgjandi því að endurskoðunin fari fram og þótt einstök ríki og ríkjahópar hafi sjálfstæðar skoðanir á einstökum verkefnum kom fram mikill stuðningur við aðferðafræðina sem formennirnir lögðu til.

Óformlegir fundir voru haldnir í vinnuhópnum í maí og út í júlí 2008. Vinnu við fyrstu tvo klasana, mannúðaraðstoðarverkefni og þróunarverkefni í Afríku, lauk í lok júlí með því að þau voru flokkuð eftir því hvort þau hafa verið kláruð, eru í gangi, hvort mælt er með því að þau haldi áfram o.s.frv.

Formenn vinnuhópsins skiluðu skýrslu um framgang starfsins snemma í lok júlí 2008. Í henni er því lýst að heildarstarfið við endurskoðun verkefna SP hafi reynst flóknara en við var búist. Í ljós hafi komið að það markmið með endurskoðunarstarfinu að skapa möguleika á tilfærslu fjármuna milli verkefna hafi ekki reynst eins raunhæft og búist var við í upphafi. Það kemur annarsvegar til vegna skorts á beinni tengingu milli líftíma verkefnanna og fjármuna skv. fjárhagsáætlunum hvers árs, auk tilfærslu fjármuna innan verkefna á líftíma þeirra, og hinsvegar vegna þess að oft hafi ekki verið ljóst hver hefði ákvörðunarvald yfir verkefnum. Endurskoðunin hafi því frekar reynst gefa yfirlit yfir hvaða verkefni hefðu runnið sitt skeið á enda en skapa möguleika á tilfærslu og betri nýtingu fjármuna.

Formenn vinnuhópsins sögðu því í skýrslu sinni að áframhaldandi vinna við endurskoðun verkefnanna væri ekki réttlætunleg að óbreyttu. Þeir bentu á það sem leiðrétta þyrfti ef endurskoðunin ætti að skila árangri í framtíðinni og komu með tillögur til úrbóta. Aðildarríkin þurfa að taka afstöðu um mögulegt framhald verkefnisins á 63. allsherjarþingi.

**High Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence:** Í kjölfar leiðtogafundarins í september 2005 skipaði Kofi Annan hóp háttsettra einstaklinga til að fjalla um samræmingu á aðgerðum SP í mannúðar-, umhverfis- og þróunarmálum. Hópurinn skilaði af sér skýrslu í árslok 2006. Tillögur hópsins eru margþættar, en miða að því að sameina starfsemi SP í ofangreindum málefnum í hverju landi í eina heild. Nokkur þróunarríki hafa verið valin til að láta reyna á hvort það gangi upp og er tilraunin farin af stað með góðum árangri. Nokkrir óformlegir fundir voru haldnir í allsherjarþinginu um málið á tímabilinu og tók Ísland jafnan undir ræður ESB.

Ísland hefur jafnan látið sig jafnréttismál miklu varða á vettvangi SP. Norðurlöndin hafa haldið reglulega samráðsfundi um hvernig best sé að styrkja starf SP á sviði jafnréttismála almennt og sérstaklega um það hvernig nýta megi hugmyndir um jafnréttismál í ofangreindri skýrslu.

Áttu Norðurlöndin m.a. fund með forseta allsherjarþingsins haustið 2007, auk þess að hafa fundað sérstaklega með Rachel Mayanja, en hún hefur málefni kvenna á sinni könnu og Carolyn Hannan, yfirmanni Division for the Advancement of Women. Þá funduðu Norðurlöndin með yfirmönnum UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF og OSAGI í janúar 2008, þar sem málið var rætt í þaula. Einnig hafa Norðurlöndin átt reglulega samráðsfundi með sérfræðingum frá Kanada, Bretlandi, Nýja Sjálandi, Ástralíu og Hollandi.

Í febrúarbyrjun hófst annarskonar samráðsferli með sameiginlegri ræðu Norðurlandanna, Kanada, Chile, Mexíkó, Rúanda, Malaví, Suður-Kóreu og Papúa Nýju Gíneu á stjórnarfundum UNDP. Ísland sá um að skrifa og flytja ræðuna, er fjallaði um “UNDP Gender Action Plan”, en kom einnig inn á skipulag SP á sviði jafnréttismála. Ræðan vakti athygli, og í framhaldi var ákveðið að Ísland myndi kalla til óformlegs fundar þeirra ríkja er voru meðflytjendur til þess að skiptast á skoðunum um málið. Sá fundur var haldinn í fastanefnd Íslands þann 14. febrúar 2008 og eftir hann var ljóst að ríkin voru sammála um að fyrst yrði að skoða hvar þurfi að bæta starfsemi SP á sviði jafnréttismála, áður en skoðað yrði hvernig væri best að gera það. Ákveðið var að þessi hópur myndi halda áfram að hittast.

Á fyrsta óformlega fundi SP um “System Wide Coherence” með nýjum formönnum viðræðnanna hélt fastafulltrúi Íslands, fyrir hönd Norðurlandanna, ræðu er fjallaði sérstaklega um jafnréttismál. Þar var lögð áhersla á mikilvægi þess að skoða hvar pottur væri brotinn í starfsemi SP á vettvangi jafnréttismála, og að slíkt starf yrði að fara fram áður en ákveðið yrði hverslags stofnanakerfi henti best til þess að styrkja starfsemi SP á þessu sviði.

Má segja að sú ræða hafi markað ákveðin tímamót í afstöðu landanna til málsins, þar sem ekki var einungis einblínt á stofnanakerfi SP og tillögur hópsins um stofnun nýrrar stöðu aðstoðarframkvæmdastjóra fyrir jafnréttismál.

Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ræðu um efnið fyrir hönd allra Norðurlandanna hinn 16. maí 2008. Þá hafa Norðurlöndin markvisst sett sig í samband við aðildarríki sem jafnan hafa verið jákvæð í garð jafnréttismála og hvatt þau til þess að tala fyrir þessum málaflokk á óformlegum fundum allsherjarþingsins um málið. Hefur þetta átak Norðurlandanna borið árangur, og er staðan sú að samkvæmt ósk fjölda aðildarríkja hafa fundarstjórar (co-chairs) umræðunnar um SWC formlega óskað eftir tillögum frá aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP um hvernig beri að styrkja starfsemi SP á þessu sviði.

Tillögur aðalframkvæmdastjóra voru sendar aðildarríkjum í lok júlí 2008, og mun koma í ljós hvaða meðferð þær fá hjá allsherjarþinginu.

### Umferðaröryggi

Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ávarp þann 31. mars 2008 á sérstökum fundi allsherjarþings SP sem helgaður var umræðu um umferðaröryggi. Umferðarslys eru alvarleg ógnun sem steðja að nútímasamfélögum en alls láta um 1,2 milljónir manna lífið árlega í umferðarslysnum, ekki síst í fátækari ríkjum. Í ávarpinu var m.a. fjallað um aðgerðir íslenskra stjórnvalda í því skyni að fækka umferðarslysnum á Íslandi.

Ísland var meðflutningsaðili að ályktun sem Óman lagði fram um eflingu alþjóðlegra aðgerða til að vinna að auknu umferðaröryggi. Lýst var stuðningi Íslands við þá ákvörðun að haldinn verði sérstakur ráðherrafundur SP í Rússlandi árið 2009 tileinkaður umferðaröryggi.

### Flutningar fólks milli landa og þróun

Allsherjarþingið samþykkti í atkvæðagreiðslu ályktun um flutninga fólks milli landa og þróun hinn 20. júní 2008. Alls greiddu 86 ríki atkvæði með ályktuninni, 54 sátu hjá og tvö greiddu atkvæði á móti. Ályktunin var umdeild, en fulltrúar Mexíkó áttu frumkvæðið að henni og leiddu viðræðurnar um hana. Aðeins Bandaríkin og Kanada greiddu atkvæði gegn ályktuninni vegna þess að í henni má finna tengsl milli "Global Forum on Migration" og starfa allsherjarþingsins í málinu. Ennfremur vegna tengsla milli mannréttinda í starfi SP og innflytjendamála.

Ísland sat hjá eins og ESB, Noregur, Sviss og mörg fleiri ríki á þeim forsendum að málið hafi nú þegar sinn farveg í annari nefnd allsherjarþingsins annaðhvert haust og því fælist tvíverknaður í því að taka það upp undir lok 62. allsherjarþings. Ekkert hefði komið fram sem kallaði á ályktun. Bíða mætti í nokkra mánuði, þ.e. til upphafs 63. allsherjarþings, en þá væri gert ráð fyrir ályktun um málið.

### Fyrsta nefnd: Afvopnunar- og öryggismál

Formaður fyrstu nefndar á 62. allsherjarþinginu var Paul Badji, fastafulltrúi Senegal. Nefndin starfaði frá 4. október til 2. nóvember 2007.

Starf nefndarinnar var með hefðbundnu sniði og hófst á almennt umræðu um afvopnarmál. Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti þar ræðu 8. október 2007 og fjallaði um gjöreyðingarvopn og ógnina sem af þeim stafar, sem og tjónið og mannfallið sem leiðir af mikilli útbreiðslu og

notkun hand- og léttra vopna. Í ræðunni var einnig lýst mikilvægi sammingsins um allsherjARBann við tilraunum með kjarnavopn (CTBT) sem 177 ríki eru aðilar að og 140 ríki hafa fullgilt. Síðustu 10 ríkin sem þurfa að gerast aðilar að honum til að hann taki gildi voru hvött til að gera slíkt tafarlaust. Kjarnorkutilraunir Norður-Kóreu sýni að ákvæði sammingsins um útbreiðslu kjarnavopna (NPT) og viðauka við hann séu ekki virt sem skyldi, en þó sé jákvætt að náðst hafi samkomulag við Norður-Kóreu um að falla frá kjarnorkuáætlunum sínum. Þótt Íran hafi ekki staðið við alþjóðlegar skuldbindingar sínar sé jákvætt að viðræður um það haldi áfram. Ennfremur hafi efnavopnasamningurinn (CWC), sem 182 ríki eru aðilar að, sýnt fram á mögulegan árangur á þessu sviði.

Ísland fagnaði þeirri áherslu sem SP og aðalframkvæmdastjóri SP leggja á afvopnunarmál, en nýleg stofnun embættis háttsetts fulltrúa um afvopnunarmál (High Representative) sýnir hana í verki. Loks hvatti Ísland, sem eitt af 24 herlausum löndum í heiminum, aðildarríki SP til að leggja sitt af mörkum til styrkingar þessa mikilvæga málaflökks.

Í fyrstu nefnd hefur Ísland náð samráð við helstu bandalagsríki, s.s. Norðurlöndin, einkum Noreg og Danmörku, um afstöðu til tillagna. Svokallaður Mason-hópur fundar vikulega en þar er skipst á upplýsingum um afstöðu til ályktunartillagna. Hópurinn skipa vestræn ríki, auk nokkurra sem teljast utan þeirra, s.s. Armenía og Argentína.

Samtals voru samþykktar 52 ályktanir og ákvarðanir í fyrstu nefnd en af þeim voru 23 samþykktar samhljóða, án atkvæðagreiðslu. Tvær nýjar ályktanir voru sérstaklega umdeildar að þessu sinni. Önnur þeirra var ályktun um skotfæri og brynvarnir sem innihalda tæmt úraníum. Sú ályktun var umdeild vegna ákvæða í henni um að banna notkun slíkra skotfæra og brynvarna þar til ljóst verður hvort heilsu manna sem umgangast slíkt stafí hætta af, en rannsóknir benda ekki til þess. Hin umdeilda ályktunin fjallaði um viðbragðstíma kjarnavopna, en kjarnorkuveldin héldu því fram að ályktunin væri á byggð á misskilningi á viðbragðstíma, og lækun á viðbragðsstöðu myndi draga úr öryggi í heiminum. Báðar þessar ályktanir voru samþykktar með meirihluta atkvæða.

Ísland var meðflutningsríki að eftirfarandi ályktunum: 1) Um gagnsæi upplýsinga um hernaðarmátt 2); Um samninginn um bann við kjarnavopnatilraunum; 3) Um endurnýjað átak til algerrar útrýmingar kjarnavopna; 4) Um samning um bann við hefðbundnum vopnum sem valdið geta ódæma þjáningu; 5) Um öryggi og samvinnu á Miðjarðarhafssvæðinu og 6) Um allar hliðar ólöglegra viðskipta með handvopn og léttvopn.



Hægt er að nálgast allar samþykktar ályktanir fyrstu nefndar á 62. allsherjarþinginu hér: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r62>

Óformlegur vinnuhópur fjallaði í þremur vikulöngum fundalotum um dagskrá og efni fjórða aukaallsherjarþings SP um afvopnun. Deilur stóðu um hefðbundin atriði innan þessa hóps, t.d. hvort raunveruleg þörf væri á að halda nýtt aukaallsherjarþing SP um afvopnunarmál, hver dagskráin ætti að vera, hvort stofna ætti undirbúningshóp fyrir slíkt þing o.fl. Niðurstaðan eftir þessar þrjár vikulöngu fundalotur var lítil sem engin og í skýrslu formanns vinnuhópsins um þær segir einfaldlega að engin samstaða hafi náðst um málefnið, en talin sé þörf á frekari viðræðum og skoðanaskiptum. Málinu var síðan skotið til allsherjarþings SP til umfjöllunar.

## Önnur nefnd: Efnahags-, þróunar- og umhverfismál

Formaður nefndarinnar var Kirsti Lintonen, fastafulltrúi Finnlands.

Í nefndinni hefur fastanefndin lagt áherslu á að fylgjast með málefnum um sjálfbæra þróun, umhverfismálum, málefnum þróunarríkja með tilliti til fjármögnunar þróunar og skuldastöðu þróunarríkja og um alþjóðaviðskipti og hnattvæðingu. Fastafulltrúi og varafastafulltrúi fluttu fjórar ræður í nefndinni, þ.e. um framkvæmd þróunarsamvinnu; um sjálfbæra þróun og endurnýjanlega orku; um vanþróuðustu ríkin og landlukt þróunarríki; og um konur og þróun, en vikið verður að efni þeirra síðar í þessum kafla.

Mikill meirihluti ályktana í nefndinni kemur frá þróunarríkjum (G-77 og Kína) og eru framlagsríki almennt ekki meðflutningsríki, en reynt er að forðast atkvæðagreiðslur. Mestur tími fer því í óformlegar samningaviðræður milli G-77 og Kína og framlagsríkja. Nefndin samþykkti 32 ályktanir, þar af sjö í atkvæðagreiðslu.

Varafastafulltrúi Íslands stýrði óformlegum samningaviðræðum um ályktun um **búsetuáætlun SP** (UN-Habitat) þriðja árið í röð. Ágreiningur hefur ríkt undanfarin ár milli þróunarríkja og Vesturlanda um hlutverk áætlunarinnar. Hlutverk hennar hefur verið fyrst og fremst að tryggja fólki í fátækrahverfum borga aðgang að vatni og að stuðla að hreinlæti (water and sanitation). Þróunarríki vilja að áætlunin tryggi þeim líka mannsæmandi húsnæði, þ.e. að áætlunin verði einskonar ábyrgðarlánasjóður sem ábyrgist húsnæðislán banka í borgum þróunarríkja. Langtíma húsnæðislán þekkjast varla í þróunarríkjum. Vesturlönd hafa almennt verið mótfallin þessu. Þróunarríkjum hefur þó tekist að þoka málinu hægt og rólega áfram á undanförunum árum og nú hafa Vesturlönd fallist á að tímabundin tilraun verði gerð með húsnæðislánaábyrgð. Samningaviðræðurnar stóðu yfir í fjórar vikur.

Það tók nú samningafundi að ná samkomulagi og talsverður tími varafastafulltrúa fór í óformlegt samráð, sem að lokum leiddi til niðurstöðu sem allir voru sáttir við.

Þriðja hvert ár gerir nefndin **allsherjarendurskoðun á stefnu SP við framkvæmd fjölþjóðlegrar þróunarsamvinnu** (Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR)). Endurskoðunin var óvenju erfið í ár, einkum vegna deilna um tillögur vinnuhóps, sem Kofi Annan skipaði til að gera allsherjarendurbætur á störfum SP í þróunar-, umhverfis- og mannúðarmálum. Tillögur hópsins ganga m.a. út á að UNDP taki að sér að samræma aðgerðir í hverju landi. Mörg þróunarríkjanna óttast afskipti UNDP af innanríkismálum, verði stofnuninni falið þetta hlutverk og eru því alfarið á móti öllu sem fram kemur í skýrslu hópsins. Skýrslan er afar víðtæk og snertir alla þætti fjölþjóðlegrar þróunarsamvinnu. Þetta gerir það að verkum að framþróun er erfið. Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ræðu við umræður um þennan lið í nefndinni, 17. október 2007. Þar var m.a. tekið undir tillögur hópsins um endurbætur og lögð áhersla á að tekið yrði mið af þeim við ofangreinda endurskoðun. Ítrekað var mikilvægt hlutverk kvenna í þessu sambandi og bent á að sníða þyrfti endurbæturnar að þörfum hvers þróunarríkis fyrir sig. Eftir næturlanga fundi var ályktunin samþykkt samhljóða, 18. desember.

Nefndin samþykkti 12 ályktanir tengdar **umhverfismálum og sjálfbærri þróun**. Allar þessar ályktanir varða hagsmuni Íslands beint eða óbeint og flutti fastafulltrúi ræðu fyrir Íslands hönd við umræðu um málið 29. október 2007. Þar var m.a. fjallað um loftslagsbreytingar og sagt frá aðgerðum Íslendinga til að draga úr þeim. Bent var á að það væri mikilvægt í baráttunni gegn loftslagsbreytingum að bæta aðgang að endurnýjanlegri orku, ekki síst í þróunarríkjum. Þannig yrði komið í veg fyrir að velja þyrfti milli þróunar og umhverfisverndar. Í því sambandi var Alþjóðabankinn hvattur til að auka áherslu á fjármögnun fjárfestinga í endurnýjanlegri orku. Einnig var sagt frá jákvæðri reynslu Íslands á þessu sviði og hvernig Ísland miðlar þeirri reynslu til þróunarríkja, m.a. með rekstri Jarðhitaháskóla SP í Reykjavík. Lögð var sérstök áhersla á samstarf íslenskra stjórnvalda við smáar eyþjóðir á sviði sjálfbærrar þróunar.

Hvað ályktanir um þennan málaflokk varðar, bar hæst deilur um ályktun um loftslagsbreytingar, sem lauk með samkomulagi aðildarríkja. Samkomulagið var mikilvægt ekki síst vegna þess að stutt var í fund á Balí um framhald Kyótó bókunarinnar eftir 2012. Árið 2006 náðist ekki samkomulag um þessa ályktun. Einnig var tekist á um ályktun um endurnýjanlega orkugjafa, þar sem fulltrúi Íslands tók virkan þátt. Niðurstaðan var ásættanleg fyrir Ísland, þó ekki hafi tekist

að koma tilvísun í vetnistækni inn í textann. Umræðan um loftslagsbreytingar og mikilvægi endurnýjanlegra orkugjafa í baráttunni gegn þeim, sem var hvað erfiðust á óformlegu fundunum, endaði með málamiðlun um að fjalla um loftslagsbreytingar í einni málsgrein. Fulltrúi Íslands tók einnig virkan þátt í samningaviðræðum um ályktun um sjálfbæra þróun smáeyþróunarríkja (SIDS). Afstaða Íslands byggði á að styðja eyjarnar í því að ná fram sínum mikilvægustu áhersluatriðum, sérstaklega varðandi loftslagsbreytingar, en þar var fulltrúi Bandaríkjanna hvað tregastur í taumi. SIDS ríkin voru ánægð með niðurstöðuna og þakkaði samningamaður G77 (Barbados) fulltrúa Íslands sérstaklega fyrir stuðninginn eftir að viðræðunum lauk.

Atkvæði voru greidd um ályktun um olíumengun við strendur Líbanon sem var samþykkt með 153 atkvæðum, þ.á m. atkvæði Íslands. Einnig fór fram atkvæðagreiðsla um ályktun um tækni í landbúnaði í þágu þróunar, sem var upphaflega lögð fram af Ísrael, en eftir óformlegar viðræður fjölgaði meðflutningsríkjum og við atkvæðagreiðsluna voru þau orðin 83 talsins, þ.á m. Ísland. Arabaríkin voru sáttt við ályktunina efnislega, en töldu það vera pólitíska yfirlýsingu frá Ísrael að leggja fram ályktun um þetta efni í nefndinni, og gátu því ekki greitt atkvæði með henni. Hún var samþykkt með 118 atkvæðum, þ.á m. Íslands, en 29 ríki sátu hjá (Arabaríkin og stuðningsríki). Ekkert ríki greiddi atkvæði gegn ályktuninni.

Nefndin samþykkti í atkvæðagreiðslu ályktun um endanlegan **yfirráðarétt Palestínumanna** yfir hernumdu palestínsku landsvæði, þ.á m. Jerúsalem, og yfirráðarétt Araba á hinum hernumda sýrlenska hluta Gólanhæða yfir náttúrulegum auðlindum. Ísland greiddi atkvæði með ályktuninni.

Aðrar ályktanir fjalla um **fjármögnun þróunar, fátækt og önnur almenn málefni þróunarríkja, um hnattvæðingu, alþjóðaviðskipti og efnahagsmál**. Ísland var meðflutningsríki að ályktun um hnattrænt samstarf í þróunarmálum. Ályktun um viðskipti og þróun var samþykkt í atkvæðagreiðslu, en Ísland greiddi atkvæði gegn ályktuninni ásamt ESB ríkjunum o.fl. Ályktun gegn einhliða efnahagsþvingunum gagnvart þróunarríkjum var samþykkt í atkvæðagreiðslu, en Ísland sat hjá ásamt öðrum Vesturlöndum o.fl. Bandaríkin greiddu ein atkvæði gegn henni.

Varafastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ræðu um vanþróuðustu ríkin og landlukt þróunarríki 5. nóvember 2007. Hann lýsti m.a. yfir áhyggjum af stöðu þessara ríkja og sagði í stuttu máli frá þróunaraðstoð Íslands. Hann lagði sérstaka áherslu á mikilvægt hlutverk kvenna í því sambandi.

Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ræðu um konur og þróun 6. nóvember 2007. Í henni var m.a. lögð áhersla á lykilhlutverk kvenna í þróunarmálum og sagt að íslensk stjórnvöld leggi höfuðáherslu á jafnrétti kynjanna, kvenfrelsi og menntun og heilbrigðisþjónustu fyrir konur í störfum sínum.

Haldnir voru reglulegir hádegisverðarfundir Norðurlanda í nefndinni, sem nýttust vel á þessu þingi, ekki síst vegna formennsku finnska fastafulltrúans í nefndinni. Fastanefnd hafði sem fyrir mikið gagn af því að sækja reglulega fundi sem kanadíska fastanefndin boðaði til fyrir JUSCANZ-ríkjahópinn. Í honum eru einkum WEOG-ríki, sem standa utan ESB, auk nokkurra annarra.

Hægt er að nálgast allar samþykktar ályktanir annarrar nefndar á 62. allsherjarþinginu hér: <http://www.un.org/ga/62/resolutions.shtml>

### **Þriðja nefnd: Félags- og mannréttindamál**

Þriðja nefnd allsherjarþingsins, sem fjallar um félags- og mannréttindamál, hóf starf sitt mánudaginn 8. október og stóðu fundir hennar til 29. nóvember 2007. Tíu liðir voru á dagskrá nefndarinnar, sem sumir greindust í nokkra undirliði.

Formaður þriðju nefndarinnar var Raymond Wolfe, fastafulltrúi Jamaíku hjá SP. Nefndin samþykkti að þessu sinni 59 ályktanir. Alls var 20 ályktanir samþykktar með atkvæðagreiðslu, en aðrar ályktanir voru samþykktar samhljóða.

Ísland tekur virkan þátt í starfsemi þriðju nefndarinnar en mannréttindi, málefni kvenna og jafnréttismál eru forgangsverkefni í íslenskri utanríkisstefnu. Fastafulltrúi Íslands ávarpaði þriðju nefnd tvisvar sinnum í almennri umræðu um einstaka dagskrárliði. Hann flutti ræðu um málefni kvenna og jafnrétti kynjanna 16. október og ræðu um réttindi barna 18. október 2007.

Í ávarpi fastafulltrúa um málefni kvenna var lögð sérstök áhersla á framkvæmd Peking-áætlunarinnar sem samþykkt var á kvennaráðstefnu SP 1995 og niðurstöðu aukþings samtakanna, sem haldið var árið 2000. Áréttað var að mikið verk væri óunnið í því skyni að tryggja jafnrétti kynjanna. Ítrekað var mikilvægi þess að efla aðgerðir samtakanna til útrýmingar á ofbeldi gegn konum og börnum í hvaða mynd sem það birtist, og nýrri skýrslu aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP þess efnis fagnað. Þá var áréttaður stuðningur Íslands við tillögur að endurbótum á stjórnskipulagi SP sem miða að því að leggja aukna áherslu á málefni kvenna og jafnrétti kynjanna innan samtakanna. Í ávarpinu var einnig lögð áhersla á aukið vægi Þróunarsjóðs SP í þágu

kvenna, UNIFEM, innan samtakanna og var tilkynnt um tvöföldun á framlagi Íslands til sjóðsins árið 2008. Hafa framlög Íslands þá þrjátíufaldast frá árinu 2003, og er Ísland á meðal stærstu framlagaríkja UNIFEM.

Í ávarpinu um réttindi barna var lögð sérstök áhersla á alþjóðasamninginn um réttindi barna og að ríki virtu skuldbindingar sínar samkvæmt honum. Lögð var rík áhersla á mikilvægi verndunar barna og ungmenna gegn ofbeldisverkum, ekki síst á stríðstímum. Lýst var yfir ánægju með störf Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, sjálfstæðs sérfræðings SP sem fjallar um ofbeldi gegn börnum og skýrslu hans sem lá fyrir fundi nefndarinnar. Fram kom að Ísland styður tillögu um að stofna embætti sérstaks fulltrúa aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP vegna aðgerða gegn ofbeldi gagnvart börnum, en þriðja nefndin samþykkti ályktun þar að lútandi í nóvember sl. Einnig var fjallað um aðgerðaáætlun íslenskra stjórnvalda í þágu barna og ungmenna. Lögð var rík áhersla á starfsemi Barnahjálpar SP, UNICEF.

Náið samráð og samstarf var meðal norrænu ríkjanna í þriðju nefndinni. Norðurlöndin lögðu fram fimm ályktanir að þessu sinni. Danmörk lagði fram ályktun um samninginn um afnám allrar mismununar gagnvart konum (CEDAW), ályktun um pyntingar og aðra vanvirðandi meðferð, auk ályktunar um skrifstofu flóttamannafulltrúa SP. Noregur lagði fram ályktun um yfirlýsingu um réttindi og skyldur einstaklinga og þjóðfélagshópa er vinna að eflingu og vernd mannréttinda og ályktun um vernd og aðstoð til fólks á vergangi. Ályktanirnar voru samþykktar samhljóða nema ályktunin um samninginn um afnám allrar mismununar gagnvart konum sem var samþykkt með atkvæðagreiðslu. Bandaríkin greiddu ein atkvæði á móti ályktuninni.

Líkt og undanfarin ár urðu umtalsverðar deilur innan nefndarinnar vegna ályktana um ástand mannréttindamála í einstökum ríkjum. Alls voru samþykktar með atkvæðagreiðslu fjórar ályktanir um alvarlegt ástand mannréttinda í einstökum ríkjum þar sem lýst var yfir áhyggjum vegna stöðu mannréttinda og skorað á viðkomandi stjórnvöld að virða þær skuldbindingar sem þau hafi undirgengist á sviði mannréttindamála. Um var að ræða Íran, Hvíta-Rússland, Norður-Kóreu og Mjanmar (Búrma). Ísland var meðflutningsríki að þessum fjórum ályktunum og greiddi atkvæði með þeim.

Þriðja nefndin ályktaði um rétt palestínsku þjóðarinnar til sjálfsákvörðunar, en ályktun þar að lútandi var lögð fram af Egyptalandi. Ísland var meðflutningsríki að ályktuninni, sem og Evrópusambandið og Noregur, og greiddi atkvæði með henni.

Mikil umræða og djúpstæður ágreiningur varð í þriðju nefndinni um nýja ályktun um frestun dauðarefsinga. Ísland var meðal 87 meðflutningsríkja að ályktuninni sem samþykkt var í atkvæðagreiðslu. Mörg þau ríki sem ennþá viðhalda dauðarefsingu í löggjöf sinni gagnrýndu ályktunina fyrir að seilast inn í innanríkismál viðkomandi ríkja.

Þriðja nefndin samþykkti nýja ályktun sem Bandaríkin lögðu fram um útrýmingu nauðgana og kynferðislegs ofbeldis, m.a. á ófriðartímum. Langvinnar samningaviðræður urðu um ályktunina. Ísland var meðflutningsríki ályktunarinnar sem samþykkt var án atkvæðagreiðslu.

Samþykkt var ályktun um eflingu aðgerða í því skyni að koma í veg fyrir ofbeldi gegn konum. Ályktunin var líkt og í fyrra lögð fram sameiginlega af Frakklandi og Hollandi og var samþykkt samhljóða. Ísland var meðflutningsríki. Þá samþykkti þriðja nefndin í atkvæðagreiðslu hefðbundna ályktun um réttindi barnsins sem Ísland var eins og áður meðflutningsríki að. Í ályktuninni er mælt með að stofnað verði embætti sérstaks fulltrúa aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP vegna ofbeldis gegn börnum.

Hefðbundin ályktun um stúlkubarnið var samþykkt án atkvæðagreiðslu. Sérstök áhersla var þar lögð á skuldbindingar ríkja til að tryggja réttindi stúlkubarnsins. Sérstaklega var þar fjallað um aðgerðir gegn alnæmissmitun stúlkubarna og lögð var áhersla á virka eftirfylgni vegna niðurstöðu 51. fundar kvennanefndar SP sem haldinn var 2007. Ísland var meðflutningsríki ályktunarinnar.

Að lokum má geta þess að samþykkt var ályktun sem lögð var fram af Senegal um eflingu alþjóðlegra aðgerða til að stemma stigu við fistúlu sem er alvarlegt heilsufarsvandamál kvenna og stúlkubarna víða í Afríku. Ályktunin var samþykkt samhljóða og var Ísland meðflutningsríki hennar.

Hægt er að nálgast allar samþykktar ályktanir þriðju nefndar á 62. allsherjarþinginu hér: <http://www.un.org/ga/62/resolutions.shtml>

### **Fjórða nefnd: Sérstaka stjórn mála- og nýlendunefndin**

Fjórða nefnd allsherjarþingsins, sérstaka stjórn mála- og nýlendunefndin, hélt fyrsta fund sinn 4. október og lauk störfum 26. nóvember 2007. Formaður hennar var Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad, fastafulltrúi Súdan hjá SP. Helstu málefni á vettvangi fjórðu nefndarinnar voru eftirfarandi, en alls samþykkti nefndin 24 ályktanir að þessu sinni.

Afnám nýlendna: Hefðbundin ályktun um Vestur-Sahara, lögð fram af Alsír, var samþykkt í nefndinni án atkvæðagreiðslu. Í fyrra voru hinsvegar greidd atkvæði um ályktunina eftir langvinnar samningaumleitanir. Þar sem samningaviðræður á milli deiluaðila standa nú yfir á grunni ályktunar öryggisráðs SP nr. 1754 var takmörkuð umfjöllun í nefndinni um málefni Vestur-Sahara.

Samþykktar voru hefðbundnar árlegar ályktanir um málefni nýlendna. Þetta voru ályktanir um upplýsingar frá nýlendusvæðum, skv. 73. gr. sáttmála SP, ályktun um framkvæmd yfirlýsingarinnar um sjálfstæði nýlendusvæða, ályktun um áhrif erlendra hagsmuna á nýlendusvæði auk ályktunar um miðlun upplýsinga um nýlendusvæði. Ísland greiddi atkvæði með öllum ofangreindum ályktunum líkt og Evrópusambandið og Noregur. Ísland sat hinsvegar hjá við atkvæðagreiðslu um ályktun um framkvæmd undirstofnana SP og tengdra alþjóðastofnana á yfirlýsingu um sjálfstæði nýlendna, sem og Evrópusambandið og Noregur. Aðrar ályktanir á sviði nýlendumála voru samþykktar í fjórðu nefnd án atkvæðagreiðslu.

Umræða um friðsamlega nýtingu himingeimsins fer fram árlega í fjórðu nefndinni, á grunni skýrslu sérstakrar nefndar þar að lútandi. Tvær ályktanir sem lúta að friðsamlegri nýtingu himingeimsins voru samþykktar í nefndinni.

Ályktun um áhrif kjarnageislunar var eins og áður samþykkt samhljóða en þessi málaflokkur er árlega til umræðu í fjórðu nefndinni.

Málefni upplýsinganefndar SP heyra undir fjórðu nefnd, sem fjallar um ársskýrslu upplýsinganefndarinnar og skýrslu aðstoðaraðalframkvæmdastjóra upplýsingasviðs SP. Nefndin samþykkti tvær ályktanir á sviði upplýsingamála, annarsvegar um upplýsingamiðlun í þágu mannúðar og hinsvegar um stefnu og starfsemi samtakanna á sviði upplýsingamála.

Stefnumótun SP á sviði friðargæslu heyrir undir fjórðu nefndina, þótt að ákvarðanir um einstök friðargæsluverkefni séu teknar í öryggisráði SP. Sérstaka friðargæslunefndin (C-34), sem Ísland gerðist aðili að árið 2002, starfar allt árið, en skýrsla um störf hennar er lögð fyrir fjórðu nefndina.

Hefðbundnar árlegar ályktanir um málefni Palestínumanna og Mið-Austurlanda voru meðal helstu ágreiningsmála í fjórðu nefndinni. Þær eru eftirfarandi: Aðstoð við Palestínuflottamenn; um eignir og tekjur Palestínumanna; aðstoð UNRWA við Palestínuflottafólk í Mið-Austurlöndum; flóttafólk vegna sexdaga stríðsins 1967; um skýrslu sérstöku rannsóknarnefndarinnar um mannréttindabrot Ísraelsstjórnar á hernumdu svæðunum; og gildi IV. Genfarsamnings um óbreytta

borgara á stríðstímum á hernumdu svæðunum; landnemabyggðir Ísraels á hernumdu svæðunum; um aðgerðir Ísraelsmanna sem hafa áhrif á mannréttindi Palestínumanna og um hernumdar Gólanhæðir. Ísland, ásamt ESB og Noregi, greiddi atkvæði með öllum ályktunartillögum um þessa málaflokka nema um starfsemi sérstöku rannsóknarnefndarinnar. Í því tilviki sat Ísland hjá líkt og Evrópusambandið og Noregur.

Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ræðu í fjórðu nefndinni um ársskýrslu Palestínu-flóttamannanefndarinnar (UNRWA). Þar var m.a. lögð áhersla á það mikilvæga hlutverk er UNRWA hefur gegnt í lífi palestínskra flóttamanna allt frá 1949. Þá var lýst yfir áhyggjum vegna ástands mannúðarmála á Gasasvæðinu, ekki síst yfir þeim hömlum sem settar hafa verið á aðgang inn og út af svæðinu. Að lokum var greint frá ákvörðun íslenskra stjórnvalda um að hækka framlag Íslands til nefndarinnar verulega.

Hægt er að nálgast allar samþykktar ályktanir fjórðu nefndar á 62. allsherjarþinginu hér: <http://www.un.org/ga/62/resolutions.shtml>

Árlegur fundur nefndar SP um málefni friðargæslu (C-34) var haldinn 10. mars - 4. apríl 2008. Hún er ein af undirnefndum fjórðu nefndar allsherjarþingsins. Á fundinum var fjallað um innleiðingu samkomulags (MOU) um aðgerðir til að stemma stigu við kynferðislegri misnotkun af hálfu friðargæsluliða SP. Sérstakur vinnuhópur var starfræktur á vegum nefndarinnar í þessu skyni og hefur hann nú lokið störfum sínum. Talsverður ágreiningur varð um texta samkomulagsins, m.a. varðandi agaviðurlög vegna kynferðislegrar misnotkunar af hálfu friðargæsluliða og ágreinings um rannsóknaraðferðir í afbrotatilfellum og ábyrgð ríkja í því sambandi. Einnig var á fundinum fjallað sérstaklega um aðgerðir til að tryggja öryggi friðargæsluliða í friðargæslusveitum á vegum samtakanna. Árásir á friðargæsluliða SP voru harðlega fordæmdar.

Íslensk stjórnvöld sendu á fyrrihluta 2008 tvo lögregluþjóna til friðargæslusveita SP í Líberíu. Eru þetta fyrstu íslensku friðargæsluliðarnir sem sendir eru til starfa hjá sveitum SP.

### **Fimmta nefnd: Fjárhags- og stjórnsýslumál**

Fimmta nefnd allsherjarþingsins, fjárlaga- og stjórnsýslunefndin, hóf störf sín 8. október en hún starfar sleitulaust allt fram að jólum. Einnig kemur nefndin tvívegis saman eftir áramót, í mars og maí/júní. Formaður nefndarinnar á 62. allsherjarþingi var kjörinn Hamidon Ali, fastafulltrúi Malasíu.



Tvö stærstu umfjöllunarefni á haustfundi nefndarinnar voru annarsvegar fjárlög SP til næstu tveggja ára (2008-2009) og hinsvegar ný sameiginleg friðargæslusveit SP og Afrikusambandsins í Darfúr (UNAMID).

**Fjárlög SP**, önnur en fjárhagsskuldbindingar vegna friðargæsluverkefna, eru gerð til tveggja ára í senn, og því fer bróðurpartur umfjöllunar fimmtu nefndar annaðhvert ár í fjárlög, en hitt árið er almenn stjórnsýsla til umfjöllunar. Þetta árið voru fjárlög SP vegna 2008-2009 til umræðu og kynnti aðalframkvæmdastjóri SP tillögur að fjárlögum í fimmtu nefnd þann 25. október 2007. Flutti fastafulltrúi þar ávarp og ítrekaði mikilvægi aðhalds í rekstri samtakanna og að jafnvægis væri gætt í skiptingu fjármuna milli einstakra starfssviða samtakanna.

Helstu átakalínurnar í umfjöllun nefndarinnar snérust m.a. um hversu mikið aðhald ætti að vera í rekstri samtakanna, hversu miklum fjármunum ætti að veita í mannréttindamál og skrifstofu þróunarmála og hvernig væri best að haga starfsemi óháðra eftirlitsaðila innan stofnunarinnar.

Aðfaranótt 22. desember 2007 var talið að búið væri að ná niðurstöðum um fjárlögin og því gengið til formlegs fundar. Það reyndist þó ekki svo því Bandaríkin og Síryland fóru fram á samtals fjórar atkvæðagreiðslur. Bandaríkin óskuðu t.d. eftir að atkvæði yrðu greidd um heildarfjárlög SP 2008-2009, og er þetta í fyrsta skiptið í yfir tvo áratugi sem það hefur verið gert. 141 ríki greiddi atkvæði með tillögu nefndarinnar, Bandaríkin ein voru á móti. Í allsherjarþinginu fór atkvæðagreiðslan 142-1. Sögðu Bandaríkjamenn ástæðuna fyrir afstöðu þeirra vera að fjárlögin innihéldu aukafjárveitingu vegna ályktunar þriðju nefndar um Durban ráðstefnuna.

Með þessum atkvæðagreiðslum var brotið blað í starfi fimmtu nefndar og þá einkum vegna þess að hefðin fyrir einróma samþykki um ályktun um fjárlagafrumvarp SP var brotin. Þó er óhætt að fullyrða að lokaniðurstaða samningalotunnar hafi endurspeglad vel áherslur Íslands og Norðurlandanna á vettvangi SP, þar sem þar fór saman aðhald í fjármálum og aukin framlög til mannréttindamála, skrifstofu friðaruppbyggingarsjóðsins (Peace Building Support Office) og til Palestínufloottamannanefndarinnar (UNRWA). Munu áætluð fjárlög SP 2008-2009 nema 4.171.436,6 milljörðum Bandaríkjadala.

**UNAMID** er stærsta friðargæsluverkefni SP frá upphafi. Umræða um UNAMID hófst þann 19. nóvember og stóð til 19. desember 2007.

Helstu deilumálin voru vegna verktakasamnings sem gerður var samkvæmt ákvörðun aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP við PAE,

dótturfyrirtæki Lockheed-Martin, sem nam 250 milljónum Bandaríkjadöllum. Að auki var samningurinn gerður með aðstoð frá starfsmönnum undirstofnunar NATO, sem ráðnir voru í ráðgjafavinnu fyrir SP. G77 og Kína og Afríku-hópurinn voru mjög ósátt vegna þessa fyrirkomulags og héldu því fram að aðalframkvæmdastjórinn hefði ekki farið að reglum. Samkomulag náðist um texta þar sem harmað var að samningurinn var gerður án útboðs, þótt reglur hafi ekki verið brotnar.

Annar ásteytingarsteinn var hvort súdönsk yfirvöld væru að hindra framgang verkefnisins, m.a. með því að veita seint eða aldrei leyfi fyrir húsbýggingum og næturflugi friðargæslusveitarinnar. Í samningaviðræðunum var fallist á að minnst ekki á þessi atriði í ályktun nefndarinnar. Þá var mikið fjallað um mögulega samnýtingu UNAMID og friðargæslunnar í Suður-Súdan (UNMIS) í birgðahaldi og flutningum og náðist samkomulag um almennt orðalag um könnun á því.

Lokaniðurstaða nefndarinnar var að veita 1.276 milljónum Bandaríkjadala til verkefnisins til 30. júní 2008, sem var 201 milljóna dala niðurskurður frá tillögum skrifstofu SP, aðallega á sviði húsbýgginga í búðum sveitarinnar.

Til viðbótar við ofangreind mál, voru önnur málefni á dagskrá nefndarinnar er urðu tilefni til langra samningafunda. Þar ber einna helst að nefna umræður um nýtt fyrirkomulag að innra réttarkerfi stofnunarinnar (Administration of Justice).

Í heild gekk starfsemi fimmtu nefndarinnar hægt þetta haustið. M.a. tafði sein útgáfa hinna ýmsu nefndarskjala, sem og fjöldi og umfang mála sem voru til umfjöllunar. Af þessum sökum þurfti að fresta nokkrum stórum málum fram í mars 2008. Þar ber helst að nefna tillögu aðalframkvæmdastjórans um endurskipulagningu á stjórnmaladeild SP, endurskoðun á útboðsreglum SP og endurnýjun á tölvu- og upplýsingakerfi samtakanna.

Önnur fundarröð 5. nefndar SP stendur yfir í marsmánuði ár hvert. Allmörg málefni voru nú til umfjöllunar og ber þar helst að nefna tillögur aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP um styrkingu stjórnmaladeildar SP, endurbætur á mannauðsstjórnunarkerfi SP, útboðsreglur SP, fjármögnun stjórnmalaskrifstofa (Special Political Missions) í Sómalíu, Nepal og Úganda, og fleira.

Í upphafi umræðunnar í nefndinni var tekist á um styrkingu stjórnmaladeildarinnar, enda þar um pólitískt viðkvæmt málefni að ræða sem hefur töluverðan kostnað í för með sér fyrir aðildarríkin. Noregur flutti ræðu fyrir hönd Íslands og Noregs um málið. Þar var tekið mjög vel í tillögur aðalframkvæmdastjórans. Einnig var ESB

heldur jákvætt, ásamt Afríkúríkjahópnum og CANZ. Þó fór svo, samkvæmt kröfu Bandaríkjanna, Japans og Rússlands, að á síðustu stundu var ákveðið að fresta umræðum um tillögur aðalframkvæmdastjórans fram til 63. allsherjarþingsins. Eins fór fyrir tillögum um endurbætur á mannauðsstjórnunarkerfi SP, sem aftur verða á dagskrá á 63. allsherjarþinginu. Sama átti við um tillögur um breytingar á útboðsreglum SP, sem ræddar voru í þriðju fundarröð nefndarinnar í maí 2008 (sjá síðar).

Almennt má segja að þessi fundarröð fimmtu nefndarinnar hafi leitt í ljós ákveðna stjórnunarkreppu innan SP. Hún kristallaðist í kröfu Bandaríkjanna og Japans um virkt aðhald í fjármálum, sem er í ákveðnu ósamræmi við almenna kröfu aðildarríkjanna um endurbætur á SP – hugmyndir sem eiga rætur sínar að rekja til leiðtogafundarins árið 2005. Einnig er ljóst að aðalframkvæmdastjóri SP hefur eigin hugmyndir um endurbætur á hinum ýmsu deildum stofnunarinnar, s.s. stjórnmaladeild og friðargæslu, sem eru bæði dýrar og pólitískt umdeildar. Þá kom greinilega í ljós að ákvörðun Bandaríkjanna um að greiða atkvæði gegn fjárlögum SP í desember 2007 mun hafa veruleg áhrif á störf þeirra og afstöðu innan fimmtu nefndarinnar. Önnur aðildarríki voru almennt sammála um að Bandaríkin hafi verið óvenjulega ósamvinnuþýð og treg til þess að samþykkja nokkra tillögu sem hafa fjárhagslegar skuldbindingar í för með sér. Má reikna með að afstaða þeirra verði áfram á þennan veg og eru tilgátur um að markmið Bandaríkjanna sé að fresta flestu því sem hefur fjárhagslegar skuldbindingar í för með sér (fyrir utan friðargæslu) fram til 63. allsherjarþingsins, þannig að hægt sé að fjalla um allar þær tillögur saman og hafa þannig betri stjórn á aukningu á fjárhagsskuldbindingum SP.

Þriðja fundarröð 5. nefndar SP stendur yfir í maímánuði ár hvert, og er sú fundarröð einkum tileinkuð fjármögnun á friðargæslusveitum, en fjárhagsár þeirra er frá 1. júlí til 30. júní. Þetta árið voru einnig til umfjöllunar tillögur aðalframkvæmdastjórans um styrkingu á hermáladeild SP (Office of Military Affairs) er heyrir undir friðargæsludeild SP (DPKO), almenn stefnumál varðandi starfsemi friðargæslusveita (Cross Cutting Issues), sem og stefna SP við útboðsgerð.

Eins og oft áður komu mikilvægar skýrslur mjög seint til umfjöllunar nefndarinnar og því drógust störf hennar fram undir miðjan júnímánuð. Leit um tíma út fyrir að nefndin myndi ekki ná að klára umfjöllun sína um stærstu friðargæslusveit SP, þ.e. í Darfúr, vegna tímaskorts. Fór þó svo að nefndin samþykkti ályktanir um öll málefni er fyrir hana höfðu

verið lögð, fyrir utan ályktun um almenn stefnumál er við koma friðargæslusveitum sem frestað var um eitt ár.

Í heild samþykkti nefndin fjárlög að upphæð 7.08 milljarða Bandaríkjadala fyrir friðargæslu. Þar af eru friðargæslusveitir SP í Darfúr (UNAMID) og í Austur-Kongó (MONUC) langstærstar.

Ísland greiðir 0.037% af útgjöldum SP til friðargæslu.

Ákveðið var að styrkja starfsemi hermáladeildar SP, þó þannig að í stað þeirra 92 stöðugilda sem aðalframkvæmdastjórinn lagði til, samþykkti nefndin 46 ný stöðugildi.

Hægt er að nálgast allar afgreiddar ályktanir fimmtu nefndar á 62. allsherjarþinginu hér: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r62>

## **Sjötta nefnd: Þjóðréttarmál**

Sjötta nefnd allsherjarþingsins, sem fjallar um lagamálefni, hóf starf sitt 8. október og var síðasti fundur hennar haldinn 19. nóvember 2007. Formaður nefndarinnar á þessu allsherjarþingi var Alexei Tulbure frá Moldóvíu.

Tuttugu efnisliðir voru á dagskrá nefndarinnar að þessu sinni en þeir voru eftirfarandi: ábyrgð ríkja fyrir alþjóðlega rangar aðgerðir, áætlun SP um aðstoð við kennslu, nám, útbreiðslu og víðtækari velþóknun á alþjóðarétti; diplómatiskt vernd; refsíábyrgð embættismanna SP og sérfræðinga í sendinefndum; ihugunaratriði um hindrun skaða vegna hættulegra aðgerða sem hafa áhrif yfir landamæri og dreifing tjóns við slíkar aðstæður; aðgerðir til að útrýma alþjóðlegum hryðjuverkum; gildi réttarins á landsstigi og á alþjóðavettvangi; endurbætur á starfi allsherjarþingsins: skýrsla sjötta nefndar SP og beiting réttlætis innan SP. Fjórir liðir fólust í umfjöllun um skýrslur sem kynntar voru fyrir nefndinni en það voru skýrsla viðskiptalaganefndar SP um starf hennar á 40. fundatímabili hennar; skýrsla alþjóðlegu laganefndarinnar um 59. fundatímabil hennar; skýrsla sérstakrar nefndar um sáttmála SP og um eflingu hlutverks samtakanna; skýrsla sjötta nefndar SP um áætlanagerð; og skýrsla gistiríkisnefndar SP.

Loks fólust sex efnisliðir í afgreiðslu beiðna um áheyrnarfulltrúastöðu í allsherjarþinginu fyrir eftirfarandi aðila: ítölsku- Suður - Ameríku stofnunina; orkusáttmálaráðstefnu; svæðismiðstöð fyrir létt vopn á Stór-Vatnasvæðinu og Horni Afríku; evrasíska þróunarbankann; ráðstefnu um alþjóðlegar og traustvekjandi aðgerðir í Asíu; og samvinnuráð fyrir Arabaríkin í Persaflóanum.

Allar ályktanir sjötta nefndar voru afgreiddar án atkvæðagreiðslu.

Vinna við ályktanirnar gekk að jafnaði vel en tímafrekt reyndist að ræða og ná sátt um þrjár ályktanir: Í fyrsta lagi var það ályktun um aðgerðir til útrýmingar á alþjóðlegum hryðjuverkum, en þar var á endanum ekki farið í efnislega endurskoðun á ályktuninni frá í fyrra heldur einungis framkvæmd uppfærsla og orðalagsbreytingar.

Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ræðu um hryðjuverk við almenna umræðu í nefndinni þann 10. október. Í ræðunni voru hryðjuverk fordæmd, þau sögð ógna friði og öryggi í öllum löndum og lögð áhersla á að aðgerðir gegn þeim væru sameiginlegt verkefni allra þjóða. SP hefðu mikilvægu hlutverki að gegna í því sambandi og heildstæð stefna SP í aðgerðum gegn hryðjuverkum, ályktanir og nefndir öryggisráðsins og alþjóðasamningar á þessu sviði, væru mikilvæg tæki í baráttunni gegn hryðjuverkum.

Í öðru lagi var ályktun um framkvæmd réttlætis innan SP mikið rædd. Endurskoðun hefur staðið yfir á innra réttarkerfi Sameinuðu þjóðanna en það viðfangsefni er í eðli sínu efni sem einnig fellur undir fimmtu nefnd SP sem fjallar um fjárlög og stjórnsýslu SP. Miklar umræður spunnust um fyrirkomulag innra réttarkerfis SP, sáttameðferð, réttargæslu, áfrýjanir, skaðabætur, hverjir ættu að falla undir réttarkerfið, o.fl. Ekki náðist niðurstaða um þessi málefni og nefndin sendi forseta allsherjarþingsins á endanum bréf með yfirliti yfir þau atriði sem nefndin hafði rætt og stöðu umræðna um þau. Málið verður áfram til umræðu hjá nefndinni og í ályktun allsherjarþingsins um framkvæmd réttlætis var ákveðið að stofna sérstakan vinnuhóp til að starfa að þessu máli.

Í þriðja lagi var miklum tíma varið í umræður sem tengdust ályktun um refsíabyrgð embættismanna SP og sérfræðinga í sendinefndum. Sú umræða tengist m.a. tilvikum um kynferðislega misnotkun af hálfu friðargæsluliða SP og ábyrgð vegna þeirra en í ályktuninni er reynt að tryggja að starfsmönnum SP sem fremja afbrot verði refsað.

Hægt er að nálgast allar afgreiddar ályktanir sjöttu nefndar á 62. allsherjarþinginu hérna <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r62>

## Öryggisráðið

Öryggisráð SP samþykkti alls 59 ályktanir frá ágúst 2007 til júliloka 2008.

Norðurlöndin fluttu fimm sameiginlegar ræður á tímabilinu á opnum fundum öryggisráðs SP. Þar af flutti fastafulltrúi Íslands fjórar. Eftir því sem best er vitað eru þetta fyrstu skiptin sem fluttar eru ræður fyrir hönd allra Norðurlandanna í öryggisráði SP.

Þann 23. október 2007 fór fram árleg umræða í öryggisráðinu um ályktun ráðsins nr. 1325 um konur, frið og öryggi. Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti þar ávarp. Í því var rík áhersla lögð á hagnýta innleiðingu ályktunarinnar í því skyni að auka þátttöku kvenna í friðarferli og friðaruppbyggingu og áréttað mikilvægt hlutverk friðaruppbyggingarnefndar SP (PBC). Fram kom í ávarpinu að unnið væri að sérstakri íslenskri landsáætlun vegna innleiðingar ályktunarinnar, m.a. í starfsemi íslensku friðargæslunnar. Einnig var í ávarpinu lögð áhersla á aukið vægi þróunarsjóðs SP í þágu kvenna, UNIFEM.

Fastafulltrúi flutti þann 20. nóvember 2007 ávarp á opnum fundi öryggisráðsins um vernd óbreyttra borgara á ófriðartímum. Í ávarpinu var lögð sérstök áhersla á aukið starf samtakanna, ekki sist öryggisráðsins, í þágu verndar óbreyttra borgara á ófriðartímum og við uppbyggingarstarf í samfélögum að átökum loknum. Einnig var ítrekað mikilvægi þess að stemma stigu við kynferðislegu ofbeldi í hernaðarskyni, sem væri alvarlegur stríðsglæpur. Lýst var ánægju með samþykkt ályktunar í þriðju nefnd allsherjarþingsins um útrýmingu nauðgana og kynferðislegs ofbeldis, m.a. á ófriðartímum.

Ástand mála í Afganistan var til umræðu á opnum fundi öryggisráðsins þann 12. mars 2008. Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti þar ræðu fyrir hönd Norðurlanda. Í ræðunni lögðu Norðurlöndin ríka áherslu á mikilvægt hlutverk SP í uppbyggingarstarfinu í Afganistan. Einnig var starfsemi aðstoðarsendinefndar samtakanna í Afganistan (UNAMA) áréttuð en hún gegnir mikilvægu hlutverki við samræmingu á starfsemi alþjóðasamfélagsins í landinu. Lögð var áhersla á nauðsyn þess að styrkja stöðu afganskra kvenna. Lýst var ánægju með að Kai Eide, frá Noregi, hefði verið skipaður sérstakur fulltrúi aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP gagnvart Afganistan.

Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti þann 12. febrúar ávarp fyrir hönd Norðurlandanna, á opnum fundi öryggisráðs SP um vernd barna í stríðsátökum. Talið er að tvær milljónir barna hafi látið lífið í styrjalдарátökum undanfarna tvo áratugi. Hundruð þúsunda barna og ungmenna hafa verið þvinguð til hermennsku. Í ávarpi fastafulltrúa var lögð sérstök áhersla á aukið starf SP, ekki sist öryggisráðsins, í þágu verndunar barna í stríðsátökum. Fastafulltrúi áréttuði m.a. stuðning Norðurlandanna við innleiðingu ályktunar öryggisráðsins nr. 1612 um verndun barna gegn ofbeldisverkum á stríðstímum og starfsemi sérstaks vinnuhóps á vegum öryggisráðsins um það efni. Fastafulltrúi ítrekaði jafnframt mikilvægi þess að stemma stigu við kynferðislegu ofbeldi gegn börnum í stríðsátökum.

Hið alvarlega ástand í **Darfúr** hefur ítrekað verið á dagskrá öryggisráðs SP, en þar hafa tvær milljónir manna þurft að flýja heimili sín og eru háðar neyðaraðstoð sem er mjög erfið í framkvæmd. Öryggisráðið samþykkti eftir langvinnar samningaviðræður við stjórnvöld í Súdan þann 31. júlí 2007 ályktun (1769) um að sent yrði 26.000 manna sameiginlegt friðargæslulið (UNAMID) á vegum SP og Afríkusambandsins til Darfúr til að tryggja stöðugleika á svæðinu og koma á friði á nýjan leik. Friðargæsluliðið leysti af hólmi friðargæslulið Afríkusambandsins (AMIS) í Darfúr.

Eftir samþykkt ályktunar nr. 1769 hafa afleiðingar ástandsins í Darfúr verið reglulega til umræðu í ráðinu. Þann 25. september 2007 samþykkti ráðið, með ályktun nr. 1778, stofnun sérstakrar sveitar SP í Mið-Afríkulyðveldinu og Tsjad (MINURCAT), sem var stofnuð vegna ástandsins á landamærum landanna og Súdans. Evrópusambandið fer fyrir friðargæslusveit á svæðinu, í umboði öryggisráðsins. Málið hefur komið reglulega fyrir ráðið, bæði vegna UNAMID og MINURCAT. Jan Eliasson, sérstakur erindreki SP vegna friðargæslunnar, John Holmes, aðstoðarframkvæmdastjóri mannúðarmála hjá SP og Luis Moreno Ocampo, aðsaksóknari Alþjóðasakamáladómstólsins (ICC), hafa allir komið fyrir ráðið og lýst stöðu mála. Skortur á samstarfsvilja súdanskra stjórnvalda hefur verið harðlega gagnrýndur, bæði af þessum aðilum og aðildarríkjum ráðsins.

Starfsemi UNAMID fór hægt af stað og friðargæslusveitina hefur skort bæði mannafla og nauðsynlegan tækjabúnað. Samningaviðræður við súdönsk yfirvöld hafa gengið treglega vegna takmarkaðs samstarfsvilja þeirra hvað varðar UNAMID. SP hafa áhyggjur af því að öryggisástand í Darfúr fari versnandi og öryggisráðið þurfi að vera því viðbúið að UNAMID muni starfa í mjög óstöðugu öryggisumhverfi. Öryggisráðið hefur lagt ríka áherslu á friðarumleitunir í Darfúr.

Ástand mannúðarmála á svæðinu hefur versnað eftir fimm ára hernaðaráttök sem kostað hafa allt að 300 þúsund manns lífið. Mikil vonbrigði ríkja með árangurslausar samningaumleitunir á vegum SP og Afríkusambandsins um lausn Darfúr deilunnar, þrátt fyrir margítrekaðar tilraunir. Djúpstæð tortryggni ríkir á milli stjórnvalda í Súdan og helstu uppreisnarhópanna. SP leggja áfram ríka áherslu á mikilvægi sáttu og friðarumleitana í Darfúr og þá staðreynd að friðargæsla geti ekki staðið ein og sér án árangurs á pólitíska sviðinu. Mikilvægt sé að alþjóðasamfélagið sýni samstöðu vegna átakanna í Darfúr, til að tryggja þar stöðugleika og lýðræði í sessi á nýjan leik. Þegar þetta er ritað hafa alls um 10.000 af 26.000 hermönnum hafið störf hjá sameiginlegri friðargæslusveit SP og Afríkusambandsins (UNAMID). Ljóst er að UNAMID mun áfram starfa í umhverfi

vaxandi stríðsátaka og óstöðugleika. Ástandið á landamærum Tsjad og Súdan er einnig sérstakt áhyggjuefni að mati öryggisráðsins, þar sem mikil spenna ríkir og hætta er á frekari stigmögnun átaka. Í lok júlímánaðar gaf Alþjóðasakadómstóllinn út ákæru og handtökuskipan á hendur forseta Súdan fyrir þjóðarmorð, stríðsglæpi og glæpi gegn mannkyni.

Þann 10. ágúst 2007 samþykkti öryggisráðið samhljóða ályktun sem lýtur að því að efla starfsemi sendinefndar SP í **Írak** (UNAMI) og auka hlutverk samtakanna við uppbyggingu í landinu, t.d. innlendra stjórnsýslustofnana. Sérstök áhersla er lögð á aukna aðstoð vegna mannúðarmála og flóttamannavandans í Írak. Starfsumboð sendinefndarinnar var framlengt til sex mánaða.

Öryggisráðið samþykkti ályktun um hið alvarlega ástand öryggismála í **Sómalíu** þann 20. ágúst 2007. Lýst var yfir áhyggjum vegna áframhaldandi ófriðar og átaka vopnaðra hópa í landinu. Þar var lýst eindregnum stuðningi við starfsemi friðargæslusveitar Afríkusambandsins í Sómalíu (AMISOM) í þágu uppbyggingar friðar og stöðugleika. Lögð var áhersla á að ríki framfylgi vopnasölubanni gagnvart Sómalíu. Ástandið hefur farið versnandi. Ítalía, sem gegndi formennsku í ráðinu í desember 2007, boðaði til fundar ráðsins þann 17. desember, með Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, sérstökum fulltrúa SP í landinu. Í yfirlýsingum aðildarríkjanna á fundinum kom fram aukinn vilji meðal þeirra allra, nema Bandaríkjanna, til að undirbúa eflingu friðargæslusveitar Afríkusambandsins í Sómalíu (AMISOM) og þegar ástand öryggismála hefði batnað, myndu SP taka yfir rekstur og ábyrgð sveitarinnar.

Mikil umræða átti sér stað innan öryggisráðsins um drög að ályktun um sjálfstæði **Kósóvó** sem byggði á tillögum Martti Ahtisaari, sérstaks fulltrúa aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP gagnvart Kósóvó. Rússland gerði alvarlegar athugasemdir við ályktunina og stóð í vegi samkomulags. Rússland hafði m.a. áhyggjur af því fordæmisgildi sem ályktun um sjálfstæði Kósóvó fæli í sér og taldi að samningaviðræður á milli deiluaðila væru ekki fullreyndar. Eftir ítrekaðar samningaviðræður innan öryggisráðsins var ályktunin dregin til baka þann 20. júlí 2007 eftir að ljóst var að samkomulag næðist ekki. Sett var á fót sérstakt þríeyki (Troika) Rússlands, Þýskalands og Bandaríkjanna sem vann áfram að lausn málsins. Málefni Kósóvó komu aftur til umræðu innan öryggisráðsins þann 19. desember 2007 eftir að samningaviðræður á vegum þríeykisins reyndust árangurslausar. Á fundi ráðsins kom skýrt fram að engin samstaða væri um sjálfstæði Kósóvó. Rússland stóð sem fyrr í vegi samkomulags. Bandaríkin, Bretland, Frakkland og Belgía



lögðu á fundinum áherslu á að samningaumleitarnir vegna Kósóvó væru fullreyndar, en Rússland vildi áframhaldandi aðkomu öryggisráðsins.

Málefni Kósóvó voru í brennidepli í umræðu innan öryggisráðsins á fyrsta ársfjórðungi 2008 eftir að ljóst var að samningaviðræður á vegum þríeykisins höfðu engum árangri skilað. Ekki náðist samkomulag innan öryggisráðsins um málefni Kósóvó þrátt fyrir langvinnar samningaumleitarnir af hálfu ráðsins með þátttöku ráðherra frá Serbíu og leiðtoga Kósóvó. Stjórnvöld í Kósóvó lýstu síðan einhliða yfir sjálfstæði Kósóvó þann 17. febrúar 2008.

Alls hafa nú 43 ríki viðurkennt sjálfstæði Kósóvó. Sérstakur fundur ráðsins um málefni Kósóvó var haldinn 20. júní 2008 þar sem sérstaklega var fjallað um framtíðarhlutverk friðargæslusveitar SP í Kósóvó (UNMIK) og aukna þátttöku ESB (EULEX) í Kósóvó. Forseti Serbíu endurtók á fundinum fyrri röksemdir Serbíu um að ekki megi draga úr eða útvatna núverandi starfsemi UNMIK. Öryggisráð SP geti eitt breytt skipulagi UNMIK. Tryggja verði réttindi serbneska minnihlutans í Kósóvó á grunni ályktunar öryggisráðsins nr. 1244 (1999) sem sé ennþá í fullu gildi. Fastafulltrúar Bandaríkjanna, Bretlands, Ítalíu, Frakklands lýstu yfir stuðningi sínum við tilraunir aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP til að miðla málum vegna UNMIK.

Öryggisráðið fjallaði um ástand öryggismála á **Fílabeinsströndinni** á fundi sínum þann 29. október 2007. Þar var samþykkt ályktun þar sem lýst er yfir áhyggjum af versnandi ástandi öryggismála í landinu. Skorað er á þarlend stjórnvöld að festa stöðugleika í sessi.

Öryggisráðið samþykkti, þann 3. mars 2008 ályktun um hertar þvingunaraðgerðir gagnvart stjórnvöldum í **Íran** vegna kjarnorkuáætlunar landsins. Öryggisráðið fordæmdi skort á samstarfsvilja stjórnvalda í Íran. Þarlend stjórnvöld hafi ekki veitt fullnægjandi upplýsingar um kjarnorkuáætlun landsins. Í ályktuninni er m.a. fjallað um skoðun farms sem grunað er að falli undir útflutningsbann, hert eftirlit með fjármálastofnunum, víðtækara ferðabann og víðtækari frýstingu fjármuna einstaklinga og fyrirtækja með það að markmiði að einangra stjórnvöld í Teheran enn frekar og draga úr getu þeirra til að framleiða kjarnavopn. Í ályktuninni er lögð rík áhersla á eftirlitshlutverk Alþjóðakjarnorkumálastofnunarinnar (IAEA) með kjarnorkuáætlun Íran. Skorað er á stjórnvöld í Íran að sýna samstarfsvilja og leyfa eftirlit IAEA með kjarnorkuáætlun landsins til að unnt sé að sannreyna staðhæfingar Írana um að eingöngu sé um að ræða hagnýtingu kjarnorku í friðsamlegum tilgangi.

Málefni **Mið-Austurlanda** eru reglulega til umræðu innan öryggisráðsins. Nokkrir neyðarfundir ráðsins voru haldnir á tímabilinu

vegna hins alvarlega ástands á Gasa-svæðinu. Þrátt fyrir ítrekaðar samningaumleitánir náðist hvorki samstaða innan ráðsins um yfirlýsingu forsætis öryggisráðsins né ályktun um ástandið á Gasa-svæðinu.

Öryggisráðið samþykkti þann 23. júní 2008 yfirlýsingu þar sem pólitískt ofbeldi í **Simbabve** í aðdraganda seinni umferðar forsetakosninganna var fordæmt. Í yfirlýsingu öryggisráðsins var skorað á stjórnvöld í Simbabve að stöðva ofbeldi og láta af ofsóknum í garð stjórnarandstæðinga, leyfa fundi og láta lausa þá leiðtoga stjórnarandstöðunnar er hnepptir hafa verið í varðhald. Fram kemur að virða beri úrslit forsetakosninganna frá 29. mars sl. Lýst var áhyggjum af áhrifum ástandsins í Simbabve á nágrennaríki og lögð er áhersla á aðkomu samtaka ríkja í sunnanverðri Afríku, SADC, til að festa lýðræði í Simbabve í sessi á nýjan leik. Einnig var lögð áhersla á aðkomu og hlutverk Afríkusambandsins í því skyni. Öryggisráðið lýsti einnig yfir áhyggjum sínum af versnandi stöðu mannúðarmála í landinu. Á fundi öryggisráðsins þann 11. júlí 2008 var felld í atkvæðagreiðslu ályktun um þvingunaraðgerðir gegn Simbabve. Niu ríki greiddu atkvæði með ályktuninni sem er sá meirihluti sem venjulega nægir til að samþykkja ályktun innan ráðsins. Tvö fastaríki öryggisráðsins, Rússland og Kína, greiddu hinsvegar atkvæði gegn ályktuninni og var hún þar með felld.

Málefni **Vestur-Sahara** komu til umræðu í öryggisráðinu um miðjan apríl 2008. Fram kom að ekkert hefði miðað í samkomulagsátt á fjórða samningafundi deiluaðilanna á vegum öryggisráðsins. Aðalframkvæmdastjóri SP lýsti yfir vonbrigðum sínum með útvatnaða útkomuna. Ágreiningsefnin eru skýr. Stjórnvöld í Marokkó eru ekki tilbúin til að ræða sjálfstæði Vestur-Sahara sem möguleika í samningaviðræðunum en áréttta staðfastlega fyrri tillögur sínar um takmarkað sjálfræði Vestur-Sahara (autonomy). Frelshreyfing Polisario gerir hinsvegar þá staðföstu kröfu að íbúum Vestur-Sahara verði gert kleift að taka ákvörðun um sjálfstæði landsins í þjóðaratkvæðagreiðslu á grunni Baker-áætlunarinnar svokölluðu. Engin ákvörðun hefur verið tekin um fimmtu lotu samningaviðræðna.

Öryggisráð SP hélt á öðrum ársfjórðungi 2008 tvo fundi um málefni **Georgíu** vegna stigmagnandi deilna Georgíu og Rússlands. Þar var fjallað um ásakanir Georgíumanna um að rússnesk orrustuþota hefði skotið niður ómannaða njósnavél þar sem hún var á eftirlitsflugi í lofthelgi Georgíu yfir Abkhasíu-héraðinu þann 20. apríl. Georgía gagnrýndi verknaðinn harðlega og taldi hann vera ógnun við fullveldi landsins, sem og aðgerðir rússneskra stjórnvalda sem miðaði að því að formfesta samband rússneskra stjórnvalda við aðskilnaðarsinna í

Abkhasíu og Suður-Ossetíu-héraðinu Jafnframt væri alvarlegt að Rússland hafi dregið sig úr CIS-samkomulagi frá árinu 1996 sem miðaði að því að koma í veg fyrir flutning hergagna til Abkhasíu. Fastafulltrúi Rússlands hjá SP hafnaði ofangreindum málflutningi Georgíu og sagði hann tilhæfulausan.

Málefni **Eritreu** hafa endurtekið verið á dagskrá öryggisráðsins. Þarlend stjórnvöld hafa hindrað starfsemi friðargæslusveitar SP í Eritreu (UNMEE), með því að stöðva allar eldsneytis- og matvælasendingar til hennar. Reynt hefur verið að ná samkomulagi innan ráðsins um fámennari friðargæslusveit á vegum SP sem yrði staðsett Eþíópíumegin við landamæri ríkjanna. Öryggisráðið hefur einnig fordæmt harðlega hernaðaraðgerðir af hálfu Eritreu á landamærum Eritreu og Djíbútí, og skorað á stjórnvöld í Eritreu að draga herlið sitt til baka frá svæðinu. Stjórnvöld í Eritreu hafa ekki sýnt neinn samstarfsvilja vegna ofangreinds. Öryggisráðið hefur lagt áherslu á aðkomu Afrikusambandsins til að vinna að friðsamlegri lausn málsins

Þann 10. desember 2007 var haldinn fundur vegna stríðsglæpadómstóla í fyrrum Júgóslavíu (ICTY) og í Rúanda (ICTR). Þar upplýstu forsetar og aðalsaksóknarar dómstólanna öryggisráðið um starfsemi dómstólanna undanfarið hálf ári.

Þann 19. júní var haldinn sérstakur opinn fundur öryggisráðsins tileinkaður aðgerðum gegn kynferðislegu ofbeldi í vopnuðum átökum. Fastafulltrúi flutti þar ávarp fyrir hönd allra Norðurlandanna. Fundurinn var haldinn að frumkvæði Bandaríkjanna og stjórnaði Condoleezza Rice, utanríkisráðherra Bandaríkjanna, hluta hans. Í norrænu ræðunni var lögð áhersla á eflingu aðgerða, ekki síst á vegum öryggisráðsins, til að stemma stigu við kynferðislegu ofbeldi í vopnuðum átökum. Markviss innleiðing og eftirfylgni vegna ályktunar öryggisráðsins nr. 1325, um konur frið og öryggi, gegni þar mikilvægu hlutverki. Jafnframt verði að binda endi á refsileysi brotamanna er fremja slíka glæpi. Lögð var sérstök áhersla á aukið samstarf ríkja við Alþjóða sakadómstólinn (ICC) í því skyni að tryggja að brotamenn séu sóttir til saka vegna kynferðisglæpa. Fram kom að Norðurlöndin vilja að öryggisráðið íhugi alvarlega að setja á fót sérstakan vinnuhóp sem helgaður yrði átökum þar sem kynferðisglæpir eru notaðir sem kerfisbundin vopn. Ísland studdi og var meðflutningsaðili að ályktun öryggisráðsins um aðgerðir gegn kynferðislegu ofbeldi á tímum vopnaðra átaka.

Opin umræða átti sér stað í öryggisráðinu þann 30. apríl um létt vopn. Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti þar ávarp fyrir hönd allra Norðurlandanna um ólöglega sölu og dreifingu léttra vopna. Í ávarpinu var lögð áhersla á þann skaða sem létt vopn valda, en hundruðir þúsunda manna láta lífið

árlega að völdum slíkra vopna. Kallað var eftir aukinni samvinnu milli ríkja og alþjóðastofnana á þessu sviði. Einnig var kallað eftir því að gerður yrði lagalega bindandi alþjóðasamningur um vopnasölu í heiminum, sem myndi m.a. styrkja þróunarstarf, mannréttindi og mannúðarstarf. Að lokum var lögð áhersla á hlutverk SP, sem og annarra svæðisbundinna stofnana, til að vinna gegn ólöglegri sölu og dreifingu léttra vopna.

Háttsettur fundur öryggisráðs SP um átakavarnir og svæðisbundna samvinnu í Afríku var haldinn þann 16. apríl. Thabo Mbeki, forseti Suður-Afríku, stýrði fundinum. Forsetar Filabeinsstrandarinnar, Austur- Kongó og Tansaníu sem og forsætisráðherra Eþíópíu og varaforseti Botswana ávörpuðu fundinn. Þau ríki sem voru á mælendaskrá á háttsetta fundinum voru ríkin fimmtán í öryggisráðinu auk þeirra ríkja er sitja í friðar- og öryggisráði Afríku sem og þau Afríkuríki sem eru reglubundið á dagskrá öryggisráðs SP.

Í hnotskurn má segja að flest þau ríki sem tóku til máls á fundinum hafi áréttað styrkingu Afríkusambandsins og að byggja verði upp getu þess og starfsemi á sviði friðargæslu. Rík áhersla var lögð á aukna og kerfisbundnari samvinnu á milli öryggisráðs SP og friðar- og öryggisráðs Afríkusambandsins. Öryggisráðið samþykkti ályktun í lok fundarins þar sem ráðið lýsir ánægju með vaxandi hlutverk Afríkusambandsins við átakavarnir og tryggingu friðar og stöðugleika í álfunni. Í ályktuninni er lögð sérstök áhersla á aukið samstarf SP, sérstaklega öryggisráðsins, við svæðisbundnar stofnanir, sérstaklega Afríkusambandið á sviði átakavarna og friðargæslu.

## **Efnahags- og félagsmálaráð Sameinuðu þjóðanna (ECOSOC)**

### **Skipulag og verksvið ECOSOC**

ECOSOC hefur mjög umfangsmikið verksvið og fæst við efnahagsmál, viðskipti, iðnvæðingu og efnahagsþróun, félagsmál, mannfjöldamál, barnaverndarmál, húsnæðismál, kvenréttindi, kynþáttamismunun, eiturlyfjamál, glæpavarnir, félagslega velferð, æskulýðsmál, umhverfismál og matvælamál. Einnig samþykkir ráðið tillögur um hvernig bæta megi menntun og heilsugæslu, svo og mannréttindi og frelsi hvar sem er í heiminum. Fimmtíu og fjögur aðildarríki eiga aðild að efnahags- og félagsmálaráðinu og eru þau kjörin af allsherjarþinginu til þriggja ára í senn. Ráðið heldur venjulega einn fund á ári og ræður meirihluti atkvæða úrslitum mála.

Ísland situr í efnahags- og félagsmálaráði SP tímabilið 2005-2008.

Fjöldi nefnda tekur þátt í störfum ráðsins og að auki styðst ráðið við sérstofnanir og áætlanir samtakanna. Ísland leggur áherslu á að taka þátt í störfum tveggja undirnefnda, þ.e. kvennanefndar SP (CSW) og nefndar um sjálfbæra þróun (CSD). Sérstofnanir ECOSOC eru sautján og er hver um sig sjálfstæð, með eigin fjárhag og aðalstöðvar. Þær kanna vandamál, undirbúa tillögur og aðstoða þróunarlönd á sérsviðum sínum. Allsherjarþingið hefur einnig komið á fót ýmsum öðrum sérhæfðum stofnunum, sem vinna í nánum tengslum við efnahags- og félagsmálaráðið og í flestum tilvikum gefa þær skýrslu til allsherjarþingsins og ráðsins.

Fastafulltrúi sat árið 2007 í stjórnarnefnd ECOSOC sem varaforseti Vesturlanda, annað árið í röð. Ráðið kom saman í október 2007. Sá fundur var tíðindalítill og einungis haldinn til að afgreiða nokkur útistandandi mál.

Víkuna 5. til 8. febrúar var haldinn undirbúningsfundur ráðsins fyrir árlegan fund þess. Þar var m.a. fjallað um umræðuefni og verkaskiptingu innan stjórnarnefndarinnar. Undirbúningur fyrir árlegan fund ECOSOC hófst af fullum krafti í byrjun júní 2008.

Árlegur fundur ECOSOC með Bretton Woods stofnunum, Alþjóðaviðskiptastofnuninni og UNCTAD var haldinn 14. apríl. Markmiðið með þessum fundum er að fulltrúar helstu stofnana þróunarmála skiptist á upplýsingum um aðgerðir á sínum sviðum með það m.a. fyrir augum að reyna að koma í veg fyrir tvíverknað.

### **Árlegur fundur ECOSOC**

Árlegur fundur efnahags- og félagsmálaráðs SP (ECOSOC) stóð yfir allan júlímánuð. Markmiðið með fundi ráðsins á þessu ári var að stuðla að sjálfbærri þróun. Ísland var aðili að ráðinu tímabilið 2005 - 2008.

Fastafulltrúi flutti ávarp fyrir hönd Íslands á ráðherrafundi ráðsins þriðjudaginn 1. júlí 2008. Í ræðunni var m.a. fjallað um fæðuskort og samstarf Íslands og þróunarríkja í fiskveiðum. Einnig var fjallað um loftslagsbreytingar, hátt orkuverð og hvernig Ísland hefur miðlað reynslu sinni, í nýtingu endurnýjanlegra orkugjafa, til þróunarríkja. Sérstök áhersla var lögð á, að þegar á reyndi og matvæli skorti, þá kæmi það oft í hlut kvenna að tryggja fjölskyldunni fæðu. Jafnrétti kynjanna og mikilvægt hlutverk kvenna í landbúnaði væri því lykilatriði í baráttunni gegn fæðuskorti.

Ekki náðist samkomulagi um ráðherraýfirlýsingu á óformlegum fundum samningamanna, en forseti ECOSOC lagði fram eigin málamiðlunartillögu í lok fundar sem var samþykkt samhljóða.

Fastafulltrúi Íslands sótti morgunverðarfund háttsettra þriðjudaginn 1. júlí 2008 þar sem fjallað var um sjálfbæra þróun og fæðuskort. Hann tók þar til máls og fjallaði m.a. um áherslur í stefnu Íslands í þróunarmálum á samstarf við þróunarríki í fiskveiðum.

Varafastafulltrúi Íslands sótti morgunverðarfund háttsettra sama dag þar sem fjallað var um búsetuáætlun SP (UN-Habitat), en eins og áður hefur komið fram þá hefur varafastafulltrúi undanfarin þrjú ár miðlað málum í viðræðum um árlega ályktun allsherjarþingsins um málið. Varafastafulltrúi tók til máls og fagnaði m.a. þeim árangri sem hefur náðst undanfarin ár.

Margir hliðarviðburðir voru haldnir og sótti varafastafulltrúi m.a. hliðarviðburð um vetni sem var í boði United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) og International Center on Hydrogen Energy Technologies (ICHET) í Tyrklandi. Fulltrúar stofnanna tveggja og stjórnvalda Bandaríkjanna og Kanada fluttu þar erindi og sögðu m.a. frá vetnistilraunum á Íslandi. Fram kom að kostnaðurinn við að umbreyta rótgrónum orkubúskap ríkja væri helsta fyrstaðan fyrir framþróun vetnistækninnar. Varafastafulltrúi Íslands tók til máls á fundinum og sagði frá vetnistilraunum á Íslandi og að líta mætti til reynslu Íslands af því að skipta út jarðfnaeldsneyti fyrir endurnýjanlega orkugjafa á skömmum tíma.

Varafastafulltrúi Íslands var valin til að miðla málum (facilitator) í viðræðum um ályktanirnar tvær sem falla undir samræmingarhluta ECOSOC (coordination segment). Viðræðurnar stóðu yfir frá 7. júlí til 22. júlí 2008 og stýrði varafastafulltrúi 10 samningafundum, og átti mörg óformleg samtöl við fulltrúa aðildarríkja sem lauk með samhljóða samþykki beggja ályktananna á fundi ráðsins fimmtudaginn 24. júlí 2008.

### **Ályktanir í ECOSOC**

Á ársfundi ECOSOC í New York voru flestar ályktanir og ákvarðanir samþykktar samhljóða, en nokkrar undantekningar voru á því. Greidd voru atkvæði um eftirfarandi ályktanir:

Ályktun um sjálfstæði til handa nýlendum og íbúum þeirra var samþykkt, en 20 ríki ásamt Íslandi sátu hjá.

Ályktun um aðstæður kvenna í Palestínu, úr skýrslu kvennanefndar SP, var samþykkt. Ísland greiddi atkvæði með ályktuninni.

Ályktun ECOSOC um samræmingu mannúðaraðstoðar SP var samþykkt með 38 atkvæðum, en 13 ríki sátu hjá (ESB, Kanada og Bandaríkin). Ísland greiddi atkvæði með ályktuninni.

Ályktun um efnahags- og félagslegar afleiðingar hernáms Ísrael í Palestínu var samþykkt með 49 atkvæðum gegn 2 atkvæðum Bandaríkjanna og Kanada. Tvö ríki sátu hjá, Kamerún og Japan. Ísland greiddi atkvæði með ályktuninni.

Ályktun er hafnaði niðurstöðu nefndar ECOSOC er hefur með áheyrnaraðild frjálsra félagasamtaka að SP að gera (NGO Committee), um að veita ekki samtökum samkynhneigðra á Spáni áheyrnaraðild var samþykkt. Ísland greiddi atkvæði með ályktuninni.

Bandaríkin óskuðu eftir atkvæðagreiðslu um ákvörðun nefndar ECOSOC er hefur með áheyrnaraðild frjálsra félagasamtaka að SP að gera (NGO Committee), um að veita ekki Human Rights Foundations áheyrnaraðild. Ákvörðunin var samþykkt 29 atkvæðum. Ísland, ásamt ESB, Bandaríkjunum, Kanada og Nýja Sjálandi greiddu atkvæði gegn tillögunni, þrjú ríki sátu hjá.

### **Sérstakur fundur ECOSOC um fæðuskort**

Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ávarp á sérstökum fundi efnahags- og félagsmálaráðs SP (ECOSOC) um fæðuskort, miðvikudaginn 21. maí. Kallað var til fundarins til að vekja athygli á því hversu alvarleg staðan er vegna hækkandi matvælavæðis og fjalla um samræmdar aðgerðir alþjóðasamfélagsins. Í íslensku ræðunni var aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP þakkað fyrir skjót viðbrögð þegar hann stofnaði sérstakan starfshóp til að samræma aðgerðir alþjóðasamfélagsins. Þá var í ræðunni sagt frá aðgerðum íslenskra stjórnvalda, m.a. framlagi Íslands til matvælaáætlunar SP, og lögð áhersla á mikilvægt hlutverk kvenna í landbúnaði og matvælaframleiðslu.

### **Kvennanefnd Sameinuðu þjóðanna (Commission on the Status of Women, CSW)**

Fimmtugasti og annar fundur kvennanefndar SP var haldinn í New York dagana 25. febrúar til 7. mars 2008. Fjögurra ára kjörtímabili Íslands lauk eftir fund nefndarinnar. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, utanríkisráðherra veitti fjölmennri íslenskri sendinefnd forystu. Í henni voru fulltrúar frjálsra félagasamtaka, félagsmálaráðuneytis og Jafnréttisstofu, auk þingkvenna.

Meginumfjöllunarefnið var fjármögnun jafnréttisbaráttu og valdefling kvenna. Sérstök skýrsla aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP um fjármögnun jafnréttisbaráttu lá fyrir fundinum.

Utanríkisráðherra flutti ávarp í almennri umræðu nefndarinnar þann 25. febrúar. Þar hvatti hún ríki og alþjóðlegar stofnanir til að efla aðgerðir

sínar til að tryggja jafnrétti kynjanna. Fjármögnun jafnréttisbaráttunnar væri fjárfesting en ekki kostnaður. Hún lýsti áhyggjum af áhrifum loftslagsbreytinga á stöðu kvenna víða um heim. Jafnframt lagði hún ríka áherslu á virka þátttöku kvenna í uppbyggingu friðar að átökum loknum. Utanríkisráðherra greindi frá nýjum jafnréttislögum á Íslandi sem kveða á um styrkingu þeirra innlendu stofnana sem vinna að jafnréttismálum. Þá lagði hún einnig áherslu á að hlutverk karla í jafnréttisbaráttunni verði eftt og minntist á fæðingaorlof beggja foreldra sem ætti stóran þátt í auknu jafnrétti kynjanna á Íslandi.

Utánríkisráðherra sat jafnframt hádegisverðarfund norrænu ráðherranna sem fara með jafnréttismál og tók einnig þátt í fjölsóttum norrænum hliðarviðburði sem skipulagður var með norrænu ráðherranefndinni þar sem fjallað var um leiðir til að stemma stigu við ofbeldi gegn konum, svokallað heiðurstengt ofbeldi og aðgerðir gegn mansali.

Utánríkisráðherra átti fund með aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP 26. febrúar sl., þar sem m.a. var rætt um mikilvægi kynjajafnréttis sem forsendu árangurs í brýnustu verkefnum alþjóðasamfélagsins er varða frið og öryggi. Málefni Kósóvó og umhverfismál voru einnig til umfjöllunar á fundinum.

Stígamót, Kvenréttindafélag Íslands og landsnefnd UNIFEM á Íslandi stóðu fyrir fjölsóttum íslenskum hliðarviðburði undir heitinu „Gróska, kraftur, ánægja“ í aðalbyggingu SP í tengslum við fund kvennanefndarinnar. Þar var fjallað um hvernig Íslendingar efla konur til dáða, um stöðu innflytjendakvenna og um óvenjulega sýn á fegurðina en heimildarmynd Matthildar Helgadóttur, Óbeisluð fegurð, vakti verðskuldaða athygli gesta. Ennfremur kynnti Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir, forstöðukona Jafnréttisstofu, tilhögun feðraorlofs á Íslandi á sérstökum hliðarviðburði á vegum kvennanefndarinnar.

Alls voru fimm ályktanir samþykktar á 52. fundi kvennanefndar SP: 1. Ályktun um konur, stúlkubarnið og alnæmi; 2. Ályktun um stöðu kvenna í Palestínu; 3. Ályktun um að stöðva umskurð kvenna og stúlkubarna; 4. Ályktun um lausn kvenna og barna í gíslingu í stríðsátökum; 5. Ályktun um að efla starfsemi INSTRAW (UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women).

Emil Breki Hreggviðsson, sendiráðunautur í fastanefnd Íslands, var tilnefndur fulltrúi Vesturlandarríkjahópsins (WEOG) í vinnuhóp kvennanefndarinnar, sem fjallar um þær kvartanir sem berast nefndinni um brot á mannréttindum kvenna í aðildarríkjum SP. Vinnuhópurinn var skipaður einum fulltrúa frá hverjum ríkjahóp innan SP og skilaði hann sérstakri skýrslu til kvennanefndarinnar.



## Nefnd um sjálfbæra þróun (CSD)

Sextándi fundur nefndar SP um sjálfbæra þróun (CSD) var haldinn dagana 5. til 16. maí. Fundinn sátu þau Hjálmar W. Hannesson, fastafulltrúi, Harald Aspelund, varafastafulltrúi, Bjarni Sigtryggsson, auðlinda- og umhverfisskrifstofu utanríkisráðuneytisins og Danfríður Skarphéðinsdóttir, deildarstjóri í umhverfissráðuneytinu. Fastafulltrúi flutti ræðu Íslands á ráðherrafundi nefndarinnar.

Árið 2008 er fyrra árið af tveimur þemaárum í nefndinni um þurrka, landeyðingu, eyðimerkurmyndun, landbúnað og byggðaðróun. Þá var Afríka einnig í brennidepli. Meginefni fundarins var að fara yfir stöðu þessara mála og fjalla um árangur af stefnumótun um þau, en einnig að varpa ljósi á vandamálin sem við er að etja. Í umræðunni komu tengsl þessara mála við þá fæðukreppu sem nú ríkir í heiminum og loftslagsmálin vel í ljós. Auk hefðbundinna umræðna var 12. maí helgaður umræðu um smáeyþróunarríki (SIDS - Small Island Development States) en ákvörðun var tekin árið 2005 um að hafa sérstakan dag annaðhvert ár til að ræða málefni þeirra. Varafastafulltrúi Íslands flutti þar ávarp um þróunarsamstarf Íslands og smárra eyríkja. Hálfum degi var einnig varið til að fara yfir stöðu vatns- og hreinlætismála í samræmi við ákvörðun CSD 13 þar um.

Ráðherrafundur nefndarinnar hófst 14. maí. Umræður um efni fundarins voru innleiddar með stuttum fyrirlestrum úr pallborði sem vísindamenn og sérfræðingar bæði frá stofnunum SP og stofnunum og samtökum frá ýmsum löndum fluttu. Markmiðið var að örva umræðuna og reyna að vekja spurningar og samræður meðal fulltrúa á fundinum.

Í upphafi fundarins voru flutt erindi um viðburði tengda sjálfbærri þróun sem ríkisstjórnir höfðu efnt til milli CSD 15 og 16. Undir þeim dagskrárlið kynnti fastafulltrúi Íslands ráðstefnu um sjálfbæra þróun smárra eyríkja, sem utanríkisráðuneytið efndi til á Barbados í mars sl.

Á sérstökum fundi 8. maí, þar sem fjallað var um þurrka og landeyðingu, flutti fulltrúi umhverfissráðuneytisins ávarp. Þar var m.a. sagt frá baráttu Íslendinga við landeyðingu og tilraunaverkefni Landbúnaðarháskólans á Hvanneyri og Landgræðslu ríkisins þar sem þekkingu íslenskra sérfræðinga í baráttunni við landeyðingu er miðlað til starfsbræðra þeirra í þróunarríkjum.

Á ráðherrafundinum 15. maí flutti fastafulltrúi ræðu Íslands. Þar var m.a. lögð sérstök áhersla á mikilvægan þátt kvenna í landbúnaði og þróun sveita.

## Önnur nefndastörf og sérstakir fundir í New York

### Framkvæmdastjórn UNDP/UNFPA

Í janúar 2008 tók Ísland í fyrsta sinn sæti í framkvæmdarstjórn Þróunaráætlunar SP (UNDP) og Mannfjöldasjóðs SP (UNFPA) og varir stjórnarsetan í eitt ár. Í framkvæmdastjórninni eru 36 ríki, og situr Ísland þar sem eitt af 12 ríkjum Vesturlandahópsins (WEOG).

Framkvæmdastjórnin fundar formlega þrisvar á ári, í u.þ.b. tvær vikur í senn. Þess á milli eru óformlegir stjórnarfundir. Hún er helsti ákvörðunaraðili UNDP/UNFPA og er þar bæði fjallað um stefnu- og fjárhagsmál.

Fyrsti fundur stjórnarinnar var haldinn í janúar 2008. Hélt Ísland þar þrjár ræður: um starfsemi og fjárlög UNDP til næstu þriggja ára, um starfsemi og fjárlög UNIFEM til næstu þriggja ára og um nýja jafnréttisáætlun UNDP. Síðastnefndu ræðuna skrifaði fulltrúi Íslands og flutti fyrir hönd Norðurlandanna, Kanada, Rúanda, Malaví, Kóreu, Papúa Nýju Gíneu, Chile og Mexíkó.

Í júní var ársfundur stjórnarinnar haldinn í Genf og sat Anna Hjartardóttir úr fastanefndinni hann ásamt Elínu Rósu Sigurðardóttur, frá skrifstofu þróunarmála í utanríkisráðuneytinu. Fulltrúar Íslands fluttu þar tvö formleg ávörp: Ræðu um ársskýrslu framkvæmdastjóra UNDP og stutt innlegg um óháða rannsókn á starfsemi UNDP í Norður-Kóreu og möguleika á því að UNDP hefji þar störf að nýju.

Ísland tók þátt í að skrifa og var meðflytjandi að ræðum um eftirfarandi málefni: Ársskýrslu UNIFEM, starfsemi UNDP í Afganistan, þátttöku UNDP í fjárlagastuðningi (UNDP Contribution in Budget Support), innri matsdeild UNDP (UNDP Evaluation) og um sjálfboðaliðastarfsemi SP (UN Volunteers). Þá tók Anna að sér hlutverk málamiðlara (facilitator) í samningaviðræðum um ályktun er varðar UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

### Ársfundur Upplýsinganefndar Sameinuðu þjóðanna

Fastafulltrúi flutti ávarp á 30. ársfundi upplýsinganefndar SP 29. apríl 2008. Í ávarpinu var lögð áhersla á áframhaldandi umbætur í starfsemi upplýsingadeildar SP (DPI) og markvissa nýtingu netmiðla og tölvutækni í kynningarstarfi á vegum samtakanna. Einnig var lögð áhersla á endurbætur á heimasíðu samtakanna í því skyni að auka aðgengi fatlaðra að henni. Þá var lögð áhersla á mikilvægi þess að kynna ungu fólki starf og hlutverk SP og lýst var yfir ánægju með

aukna áherslu upplýsingadeildarinnar í þá veru. Jafnframt var vaxandi samstarfi upplýsingadeildar SP við frjáls félagasamtök fagnað.

Upplýsinganefnd SP mótar stefnu í kynningarmálum og fjölmiðlasamskiptum samtakanna. Ísland tók sæti í henni árið 2005, en aðildarríki hennar eru nú 110 talsins.

### **Sáttmálanefnd Sameinuðu þjóðanna**

Sáttmálanefnd SP fundaði 27. febrúar til 5. mars og 7. mars 2008, undir stjórn Karim Medrek frá Marokkó. Nefndin fundar árlega um málefni sem tengjast Sáttmála SP, styrkingu stöðu SP varðandi viðhald alþjóðlegs friðar og öryggis, almenn samvinnumálefni milli ríkja og gildi réttarins í samskiptum milli ríkja.

Meðal verkefna nefndarinnar að þessu sinni var umfjöllun um tillögu Rússlands varðandi leiðbeiningarreglur um þvingunaraðgerðir öryggisráðsins, umfjöllun um áhrif þvingunaraðgerða á þriðju aðila og einnig um tillögu Ríó-hópsins um að Sáttmálanefndin fái sem sérstakt verkefni að fjalla um lagaleg atriði endurbótastarfs sem unnið er hjá SP.

Meirihluti af tíma nefndarinnar fór í óformlegar umræður um tillögu Rússlands, en hún fól m.a. í sér leiðbeiningar við setningu þvingunaraðgerða á vegum öryggisráðsins, aðgerðir til að forðast óæskileg hliðaráhrif þvingunaraðgerða og framkvæmd þvingunaraðgerða.

Tillagan mætti sterkri andstöðu nokkurra ríkja, sérstaklega Bandaríkjanna, en Evrópusambandið og nokkur ríki utan þess voru mjög gagnrýnin á hana og á endanum fór svo að hún var ekki samþykkt.

Ályktunartillaga Ríó-hópsins náði heldur ekki fram að ganga og í heildina var útkoman úr fundalotu Sáttmálanefndarinnar því afskaplega rýr.

### **Afvopnunarnefnd SP**

Dagana 7. – 24. apríl 2008 hélt afvopnunarnefnd SP sína árlegu þriggja vikna fundalotu. Meginviðfangsefni fundanna var að vinna að hugmyndum um bættar starfsaðferðir nefndarinnar. Aðalviðfangsefniin á dagskrá nefndarinnar, auk hefðbundinna formsatriða, voru að móta tillögur um niðurskurð kjarnavopna og ræða hugmyndir til að koma í veg fyrir útbreiðslu slíkra vopna. Ennfremur var rætt um aðgerðir á hefðbundna hernaðarsviðinu til að efla gagnkvæmt traust milli ríkja. Tveir sérstakir vinnuhópar voru stofnaðir til að starfa að framangreindum markmiðum, annarsvegar um kjarnavopnaafvopnun

og hindrun útbreiðslu kjarnavopna og hinsvegar um afvopnun á sviði hefðbundinna vopna.

Vinnuhópurinn um kjarnavopn byggði umræður sínar á grunnskjali frá formanni vinnuhópsins að viðbættum tillögum frá ríkjum. Þrátt fyrir langvarandi umræður, breytingar og endurskoðun tillagna varð niðurstaðan sú að ekki náðist sátt um tillögurnar í skjalinu og heldur ekki að hengja skjalið við skýrslu vinnuhópsins sem send var nefndinni.

Vinnuhópurinn um hefðbundin vopn ræddi á sínum fundum umræðuskjal frá formanninum, sem var byggt á vinnuskjali frá formanni samsvarandi vinnuhóps sem starfaði 2003. Eftir umræður endurskoðaði formaðurinn skjalið til samræmis við það sem komið hefði fram, en þrátt fyrir það náðist hvorki sátt um skjalið efnislega né heldur að hafa skjalið í viðauka við skýrslu vinnuhópsins.

Í lok fundalotunnar voru síðan umræður bæði um skýrslu nefndarinnar sjálfrar og einnig um skýrslur beggja vinnuhópanna til nefndarinnar. Í stuttu máli sagt þá hnikaðist lítið sem ekkert í samkomulagsátt í þessum samningaviðræðum, hvorugur vinnuhópurinn náði teljandi árangri og ekki var sátt um tillögur þær sem þeim var falið að móta. Eina niðurstaðan var sú að ákveðið var að ræða þessi mál frekar í framtíðinni.

### **Fundur aðildarríkja alþjóðlega sakamáladómstólsins**

Dagana 30. nóvember til 14. desember 2007 fór fram í höfuðstöðvum SP í New York aðildarríkjaþing alþjóðlega sakamáladómstólsins. Viðfangsefni þessa fundar voru fjölbreytt, m.a. fór fram kosning þriggja dómara í dómstólinn, sbr. hér neðar. Ennfremur var nýr formaður aðildarríkjaþingsins fyrir næstu þrjú ár, þ.e. fyrir árin 2008-2010, kjörinn. Fyrir valinu varð Christian Wenaweser, fastafulltrúi Liechtenstein hjá SP. Loks voru kosnir 6 fulltrúar í fjárhagsnefnd dómstólsins.

Önnur viðfangsefni voru umræður og samþykkt sex ályktana, þ.e. um fjárlög fyrir árið 2008 að upphæð 90,4 milljónir Evra; um varanlega aðstöðu fyrir dómstólinn; um styrkingu dómstólsins og aðildarríkjaráðstefnunnar; um breytingu á reglum um sjóð fyrir fórnarlömb mála sem dómstóllinn hefur til meðferðar; um breytingu á fjárhagsreglum dómstólsins og loks um eftirlaun dómara við dómstólinn. Ákveðið var að endurskoðunarráðstefna sáttmála dómstólsins muni fara fram á fyrsta ársfjórðungi ársins 2010 og muni standa í 5-10 daga. Úganda hefur boðist til að hýsa ráðstefnuna en ákvörðun þar að lútandi hefur ekki verið tekin.

Dagana 2. - 6. júní 2008 var haldinn framhaldsfundur þar sem fjallað var um málefni sem ekki náðist að klára á ofangreindum fundi.

Megnið af fundartímanum fór í starf sérstaks vinnuhóps um árásarglæpi (Crime of Aggression) sem hélt áfram umfjöllun um "Act of Aggression" og "Crime of Aggression", aðstæður þar sem lögsaga ICC á við, o.fl. Tíminn til að ganga frá afmörkun hugtaksins er að renna út því leggja þarf fram tillögur um breytingar eða viðbætur á sáttmála ICC einu ári áður en endurskoðunarráðstefna sáttmálans verður haldin, sem verður snemma á árinu 2010.

Sérstakur vinnuhópur um staðsetningu endurskoðunarráðstefnunnar fundaði og er líklegast að hún verði haldin í Úganda. Sendinefnd sem hafði farið þangað í vettvangskönnun gaf skýrslu. Í lok fundarins kom boð frá Argentínu um að halda endurskoðunarráðstefnuna ef boð Úganda yrði af einhverjum ástæðum ekki samþykkt. Ákvörðun um staðsetninguna verður því ekki tekin fyrr en á næsta formlega aðildarríkjafundi ICC í nóvember nk. í Haag.

Frekari upplýsingar er að finna á heimasíðu Alþjóðlega sakamáladómstólsins: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/asp.html>

### **Fundur um þúsaldarmarkmið SP í þróunarmálum**

Allsherjarþingið hélt sérstakan fund um þúsaldarmarkmið SP 2. apríl 2008. Tilefni fundarins var að líta á stöðuna eftir að framkvæmdatími þúsaldarmarkmiðanna er hálfnaður, þ.e. frá 2000 til 2015. Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ávarp á fundinum. Sérstök áhersla var lögð á aðgerðir gegn fátækt og hungri, menntun og heilbrigðismál. Í ræðunni var m.a. lýst yfir áhyggjum litlum árangri við framkvæmd þúsaldarmarkmiðanna og sagt í stuttu máli frá aðgerðum íslenskra stjórnvalda til að markmiðunum verði náð.

### **Fundur tileinkaður réttindum barna**

Sérstakur fundur allsherjarþings SP tileinkaður réttindum barna var haldinn 11. til 13. desember 2007. Á fundinum var fjallað um innleiðingu skuldbindinga aðildarríkjanna vegna yfirlýsingar og aðgerðaáætlunar SP um réttindi barna frá árinu 2002 "A World fit for Children". Fastafulltrúi Íslands flutti ávarp á fundinum þar sem sérstök áhersla var lögð á alþjóðasamninginn um réttindi barna og að ríki virtu skuldbindingar sínar samkvæmt honum. Jafnframt var áréttað mikilvægi verndunar barna og ungmenna gegn ofbeldisverkum, m.a. á ófriðartímum. Lýst var ánægju með þá ákvörðun að stofna embætti sérstaks fulltrúa aðalframkvæmdastjóra samtakanna vegna aðgerða gegn ofbeldi gagnvart börnum. Mikilvægi starfsemi barnahjálpar SP,

UNICEF, var ennfremur áréttað. Einnig var fjallað um aðgerðaáætlun íslenskra stjórnvalda í þágu barna og ungmenna sem samþykkt var árið 2007.

Hrefna Friðriksdóttir, lögfræðingur á barnaverndarstofu sótti fundinn fyrir hönd félagsmálaráðuneytisins.

### **10 ár frá gildistöku efnavopnasamningsins**

Fimmtudaginn 27. september 2007 var haldinn í höfuðstöðvum SP fundur háttsettra aðila, undir sameiginlegri formennsku Póllands og Hollands, til að fagna 10 ára afmæli gildistöku efnavopnasamnings SP. Fundinn sóttu m.a. Ban Ki-moon, aðalframkvæmdastjóri SP og nokkrir utanríkisráðherrar aðildarríkja. Þar var lýst þeim árangri sem náðst hefur síðan samningurinn tók gildi, 25.000 rúmmetrum af efnavopnum hefði verið eytt, sem er um 35% af efnavopnabirgðum í heiminum. Um 94% af þeim 65 verksmiðjum sem gefið hefði verið upp að framleiði efnavopn hefði verið eytt eða breytt til nota í friðsamlegum tilgangi. Um 3000 rannsóknaraðgerðir á grundvelli samningsins hefðu átt sér stað í yfir 80 löndum og nú væru 182 lönd, eða um 98% mannkyns, aðilar að samningnum og einungis 13 ríki ekki enn orðin aðilar. Vinna þurfi að því tryggja að full eyðing efnavopna eigi sér stað fyrir 29. apríl 2012, í samræmi við ákvæði samningsins, en að því loknu þurfi að beina athyglinni að því að takmarka vopnaútbreiðslu á grundvelli ákvæða samningsins.

Frekari upplýsingar um efnavopnasamninginn og um afmælisfundinn er að finna á heimasíðu stofnunar um bann við efnavopnum: <http://www.opcw.org>

### **Ráðherrafundir um loftslagsbreytingar**

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, utanríkisráðherra, flutti ávarp á sérstökum ráðherrafundi allsherjarþingsins, 24. september 2007, um loftslagsbreytingar og nauðsyn aðgerða allra ríkja heims til að draga úr losun gróðurhúsalofttegunda. Hún lýsti yfir fullum stuðningi íslenskra stjórnvalda við alþjóðlegar aðgerðir og lagði sérstaka áherslu á endurnýjanlega orku.

Sérstakur fundur háttsettra aðila var haldinn í allsherjarþingi SP dagana 11. til 13. febrúar 2008 um hlut SP í baráttunni gegn útblæstri gróðurhúsalofttegunda og aðlögun þróunarríkja að afleiðingum loftslagsbreytinga. Um 120 ríki, þ.á m. Ísland, fluttu ávörp á fundinum.

Öll ríki voru sammála um að UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) væri réttur vettvangur til að semja um

skuldbindandi aðgerðir gegn loftslagsbreytingum. Þróunarríkin lögðu flest áherslu á að bindandi samkomulag næðist um að þróuð ríki fjármagni aðlögun þróunarríkja að loftslagsbreytingum og útvegi þeim tækni til að takmarka útblástur koltvísýrings. Þau lögðu áherslu á að fjárframlög til aðlögunar komi til viðbótar við áður samþykkt markmið um opinbera þróunaraðstoð, ODA. Mikilvægi einkageirans í fjárfestingum í nýrri tækni var áberandi í málflutningi þróaðri ríkja.

Fastafulltrúi flutti ávarp á fundinum og fagnaði m.a. niðurstöðu ráðherrafundar í Balí í desember 2007. um að stefna að samkomulagi um aðgerðir eigi síðar en á fyrirhuguðum fundi aðildarríkjana í desember 2009 í Kaupmannahöfn. Fjallað var um hlutverk SP, ríkisstjórna og einkageirans í þessu sambandi og sagt frá því hvernig íslensk stjórnvöld vinna með stofnunum SP að því að miðla tækniþekkingu sinni við nýtingu jarðhita til þróunarríkja með jarðhitaháskóla SP á Íslandi.

### **Ráðherrafundur SP um alnæmi, 10. til 11. júní 2008**

Ráðherrafundur SP um alnæmi var haldinn 10. til 11. júní 2008. Heilbrigðisráðherra, Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, leiddi sendinefnd Íslands á fundinum. Meginviðfangsefni fundarins var að fjalla um þann árangur sem náðst hefði í baráttunni gegn alnæmi á grunni þúsaldarmarkmiða SP og sérstakri alnæmisyfirlýsingu samtakanna. Heilbrigðisráðherra, lýsti ánægju með þann árangur sem náðst hefði í baráttunni gegn alnæmi en benti jafnframt á mikilvægi þess að koma í veg fyrir að einstaklingar smituðust og að þeir sem smitaðir væru fengu viðhlítandi meðferð. Lagði ráðherra áherslu á mikilvægi þess að lækka verð lyfja sem alnæmissmitaðir nota. Einnig kom fram í ávarpi ráðherra að íslensk stjórnvöld hyggjast leggja til eina milljón bandaríkjadala til Global Fund á þriggja ára tímabili (2008-2010). Heilbrigðisráðherra stýrði einnig panel-umræðum á ráðherrafundinum sem fjallaði um fjármögnun baráttunnar gegn alnæmi á heimsvísu.

**I. viðauki: Ræða Ingibjargar Sólrúnar Gísladóttur, utanríkisráðherra, í almennri stjórn málaumræðu á allsherjarþinginu, 28. september 2007**

First allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election. At the same time I would like to pay tribute to the work of your predecessor H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa.

***I. World community based on human rights***

On this occasion I want to state how much my country has benefited from the existence of the United Nations. The universal values enshrined in the UN Charter and the Declaration on Human Rights have given a context and perspective to our sovereignty and self-determination and Iceland's story is a testimony to the fact that it is through civilised co-existence within the community of nations that societies prosper.

Iceland progressed, within living memory, from the position of being one of the poorest countries in Europe to one of the most prosperous. We have had the good fortune to be able to build a Nordic welfare society on the sustainable harvesting of our natural resources.

As a small, dynamic state without a military it is our natural inclination to look for the peaceful settlement of disputes within the international community.

Our independence, which we achieved some sixty years ago, is built on more than our democratic institutions, fundamentally important though they are.

Our freedom, in the largest sense, has been achieved through economic development as well as the guarantee of human rights and democracy. In our experience, freedom is complex and multifaceted.

All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. But it is evident that poverty, inequality and the lack of economic and social rights can make the exercise of political and civil rights difficult.

We are now about half way to our deadline for the Millennium Development Goals. The year 2015 is around the corner and we will soon need to deliver on our promises.

There has been some good news: it seems likely that the goal of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 will be reached. However, progress on many of the human development goals, such as child mortality, has been disappointing. Regional challenges remain, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

It is incumbent upon those who have the good fortune to be prosperous to join in solidarity with others to make these rights available to all. What is more, the security challenges which we face this century are such that they can only be addressed together, in solidarity with others. Climate change is a prime example.

***II. Solidarity through development***

Indeed, the phenomenon of climate change is already devastating the lives of millions, across a broad swathe of Africa, among many small island states and widely in Asia. Every region and most countries can expect to feel the effects of climate change in the near future.

How we address this issue as an international community is a test of our commitment to the fundamental values of the UN and our ability to act together in light of our shared responsibility. The discussions that took place earlier this week were an important step in identifying means and measures in this respect, and I thank the Secretary General for his initiative.



Although climate change is a global phenomenon, it tends to be the poorest in developing countries who are hardest hit – those who are least responsible for causing climate change. Climate change is thus a severe threat to poverty reduction.

It is important that the international community does not treat adaptation to climate change as a standalone issue, but as an integral part of our common efforts in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. A comprehensive approach is needed if we are to see results.

The Government of Iceland is committed to showing solidarity with the most vulnerable in adapting to the effects of climate change.

### **III. *Women's empowerment***

Iceland regards women's empowerment and full participation at all levels as a fundamental issue for the New Millennium. Whether it be in relation to peace and security, health, poverty or climate change, empowerment of women is key to success. Women and men need to be equally represented and listened to everywhere.

I would like to reiterate Iceland's support for the recommendations of the Panel on System Wide Coherence regarding gender equality and women's empowerment. The current UN structure and approach to gender issues is too fragmented. The excellent work of UNIFEM must be built upon and reinforced within the new structures.

We firmly support the establishment of a new gender entity to strengthen the UN's performance in this field of work. Establishing the post of Under-Secretary General for gender equality issues should provide strong leadership and coordination, and it is my hope that this post will be quickly filled. Gender mainstreaming has to be addressed throughout the whole UN system in a more systematic manner.

Let us use the current momentum to bring this process forward at this session of the General Assembly.

### **IV. *Development as freedom***

Official development assistance plays a vital role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Let me state clearly that Iceland views these goals as common goals. We see development as mutually beneficial co-operation. Freedom for Iceland has been built through development and it is a vital element of freedom for all peoples.

Donors need to deliver on their promises and accelerate their efforts in increasing development assistance. The Government of Iceland stands ready to shoulder its responsibility; our Official Development Assistance has doubled over the past four years and we aim to be among the top ODA contributors.

Increased aid effectiveness is central to development results. The Government of Iceland believes that the UN should be at the forefront of such efforts. We support the follow-up on the Report of the High-level Panel on System Wide Coherence, which, in our view, will make the UN more effective in delivering results on the ground.

ODA is of course not a panacea. We need to make progress in international trade negotiations. When I had the privilege of attending the meeting of the African Union in Accra this summer, I was made aware by colleagues of the tremendous potential that African countries see in closer integration across that continent.

In a globalised world closer regional cooperation and integration including trade relations has, in our experience, been a step towards a better future; a joint investment of nation-states in their common well-being.

### **V. *Responding to Climate Change***

Iceland pledges full political support to our common goal of halting global warming. Bearing in mind that there is now a window of opportunity, which may close within a decade, the IPCC is to be taken seriously in its recommendations of halving of emissions.

Iceland has set itself a long-term aspirational goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 50-75% by 2050.

The Kyoto Protocol provides a basis for effective action by developed nations, who must lead the way in controlling emissions. But Kyoto is not universal, and it is not enough. Iceland believes that the Bali meeting should start a process leading to a comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement, ideally to be concluded in 2009, the year of the summit in Copenhagen.

There is no “silver bullet” solution to the problem of global warming. The issue of deforestation, especially the rain forests, has to be addressed. The role of new technology is crucial, particularly in regard to alternative, sustainable and clean sources of energy. In the field of geothermal energy, where Iceland has considerable experience, there is wide scope for development.

New technology must not, however, exacerbate the very serious problems we already face. It is, for example, a matter of grave concern that increases in production of biomass-based energy sources could be raising food prices. New sources of renewable energy must also adhere strictly to long-term environmental demands. This is particularly relevant to the planned build-up of nuclear energy reactors.

The creativity and research capabilities of universities, the commitment and inclusiveness of NGOs and the drive of business and industry must be activated in a broad and consistent effort. Governments cannot do this alone.

#### **VI. *Human Security and Peace***

Iceland regards human security, as formulated for example by the 2005 UN Summit, to be of fundamental political and conceptual importance when it comes to discussing and deciding on action concerning peace and security. A key instrument for ensuring human security is Security Council Resolution 1325, which needs to be thoroughly implemented. Millions of individuals experience assaults on their personal security.

I am thinking of the brutality inflicted by some governments on their own people and by terrorists or irregular forces on civilians. In this context, allow me to express deep concern over events in Myanmar, where the democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been held in detention for years and where peaceful expression of political dissent is at present being brutally repressed.

I am thinking of the attacks on providers of humanitarian aid in many conflict regions. I am thinking of the failure of authorities around the world to ensure the protection of women and children from violence and trafficking. In this context, I would also like to encourage other member states to support the resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

I would like to express appreciation for the efforts of the UN Secretary General, together with the African Union Commission Chairman in finding a way forward towards alleviating the suffering of the people of Darfur, together with the Security Council. There is, however, still much to be done.

Crucial discussions are in process these days to solve the decades long situation in the Middle East. It is clear to me that most people in Israel and Palestine yearn for peace. Indeed, opinion polls bear this out. In particular, women from both sides voice their distress at the long-term effects of continued conflict on their children, who are the future of this region.

The talks in progress at the moment, with the support of the Quartet, the efforts of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, and most important, the efforts of the Israeli and Palestinian governments, give some hope.

I would encourage political leaders to ensure that the will for peace among a great many people on both sides is reflected in the political process. This requires political courage and true leadership. It requires restraint when restraint is most difficult. It requires a

determination to outflank the spoilers on both sides, who would wish to sacrifice the real prospects of a peaceful and fulfilling life for millions to a distant mirage of some unattainable utopia.

Final status issues, which are critical to the Palestinians and the Israelis, must be on the agenda for the peace conference which the President of the United States has proposed. The outcome must give both sides a clear view of a realistic and acceptable future for their children. Meanwhile, all who have it in their power bear a responsibility to do their utmost to ensure the humanitarian needs of the civilian population.

Jordan and Syria, neighbouring states of Iraq, have made generous provision for hundreds of thousands of refugees from Iraq. Iceland is determined to contribute to alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people and has pledged funds to UNHCR for the provision of schooling to Iraqi children in Jordan. We also stand firmly behind UN mandated efforts to assist in the stabilisation and rebuilding of the country.

Clearly, a major threat to human security as well as state security is the proliferation of arms. Iceland regrets the current situation in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Despite sustained efforts by the majority of Member States over a number of years, only limited progress has been achieved, some of it outside the UN framework. Our failures in this area pose a constant threat to peace and security. Now is the time to renew our efforts. The conclusion of an arms trade treaty would certainly be a significant achievement.

A number of projects launched by the UN Summit of 2005 have made steady progress, including the establishment of the Human Rights Council and of the Peacebuilding Commission. The outcome document of the 2005 Summit also tasked the General Assembly with reform of the Security Council. The momentum for completing this work must be maintained so that the Security Council can be more representative of our world in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This would entail an increase in the number of elected and permanent seats.

#### ***VII. Iceland is a candidate for the Security Council***

Iceland has been an active and committed member of the United Nations since 1946. In light of the principle of rotation and the importance of all member states sharing in the responsibility of serving on the Security Council, we notified in 2000 our first time candidacy for a seat for the period 2009-2010, with elections to be held next autumn. This candidature, which is actively supported by the other Nordic states, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, reflects Iceland's firm commitment to play an active role in cooperation with others in addressing the most pressing security threats of the 21st Century.

As a Nordic country we stand for a long tradition of active commitment to the UN and to the best interests of the whole. The Nordics have a reputation for being bridge builders – trusted mediators in complex situations.

Iceland seeks to shoulder the responsibility to exercise with fairness and firmness the role of a Security Council member.

## II. viðauki: Ræður í öryggisráði Sameinuðu þjóðanna

### Ályktun nr. 1325 (2000) um konur frið og öryggi; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á opnum fundi öryggisráðsins, 23. október 2007

Let me begin by thanking the delegation of Ghana for convening this open debate on Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. I would also like to thank the delegation of Ghana for providing a concept paper for this meeting which contributes to a constructive debate. This important subject deserves our full attention and more importantly, concrete action.

Let me also thank the Secretary-General himself for his words here this morning, as well as Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms. Joanne Sandler, Interim Executive Director of UNIFEM and Ms. Gina Torry for their valuable inputs earlier today. We were very pleased to hear from the Secretary-General about the appointment of our Danish friend Ellen Margarethe Løj as his special representative in Liberia. We congratulate her most sincerely and know that this important position will be in capable hands.

Security Council Resolution 1325 is unique. It underlines the central role that women play in conflict resolution and the need to protect their rights. It has proven to be an important tool to promote the direct and active involvement of women in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It has put gender issues and gender perspective firmly on the agenda of the Council and is relevant to all its actions.

Women are critical to the consolidation of peace and should be part of all peace processes. It is our duty to ensure that the provisions of Resolution 1325 are realized at the national, regional and international level and that women can fully and equally participate at all levels of decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. We must translate words into action.

Iceland welcomes the comprehensive report of the Secretary General on women and peace and security. The report clearly indicates that significant progress has been made in many areas towards implementation of the System-wide Action Plan on Resolution 1325 for 2005-2007, in particular, in areas such as peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding. The report, however, points out that progress has been uneven in many substantive areas of the Action Plan and gaps remain in its implementation. Much therefore remains to be done at the UN level, both at Headquarters and in the field.

In this context, we highly appreciate the work on the 2008-2009 System-wide Action Plan. We agree that the Action Plan should be a result-oriented monitoring and reporting tool for strengthened inter-agency coordination, enhanced accountability and gender mainstreaming. The UN system should engage Governments, civil society and regional organizations, such as the OSCE, in its implementation. We need to share experiences and good practices between regional organizations.

Iceland fully endorses the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in the promotion of the implementation of Resolution 1325. The Peacebuilding Commission should integrate a gender perspective in all phases of its work.

Iceland strongly supports Security Council Resolution 1325 and is fully committed to implementing it. This includes promoting the rights of women and girls and mainstreaming gender concerns in the UN system and in our foreign policy.

Iceland is finalizing an Action Plan in order to intensify our implementation of Resolution 1325. The Action plan will be finalised in co-operation with civil society. Emphasis will be on developing a plan which is ambitious and achievable at the same time. Focus will be put on gender mainstreaming and participation of women in peacebuilding and stabilisation in post-conflict societies.

Iceland now participates in peacebuilding and reconstruction in nine places around the world, including for UNIFEM in Liberia, Serbia and FYROM, and for UNICEF in Palestine. In the past few years Iceland has encouraged women to increase their participation in these assignments, and currently over 40% of deployed personnel of the Iceland Crisis Response Unit are women.

Iceland's policy on development cooperation, attaches great importance to women in conflict areas. Much of Iceland's development cooperation is directed towards facilitating a smooth transition from conflict situations with special emphasis on women and their role in peacebuilding. In this context, I would like to underline the important role of UNIFEM and I am pleased to mention that the Government of Iceland has decided to double its current contribution to the Fund. This marks a thirty-fold increase in Iceland's contributions to UNIFEM since 2003, an increase which will bring Iceland amongst the top donors to the Fund.

Iceland regards the equal participation of women in peace processes as fundamental for achieving, maintaining and promoting sustainable peace. All of us have a clear duty to work towards the full and effective implementation of Resolution 1325. The UN system, Member States, and civil society must therefore consistently work together to implement the resolution at all levels. We must translate words into action. For example, ways should be found of involving women in the Israel-Palestine peace process in a consistent and structured way. Here I would like to call to the Council's attention that there already exists a forum of influential women from both sides together with international figures, the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Peace (IWC). We would like to use this opportunity to urge the Quartet to consider how the peace process can benefit from influential and effective groups like the IWC.

I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting and we look forward to further discussions in order to improve the implementation of Resolution 1325.

**Vernd óbreyttra borgara á ófriðartímum; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á opnum fundi öryggisráðs Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 20. nóvember 2007**

First of all allow me to thank the Secretary General for his report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. This report reflects the same commitment to the issue which the Secretary General has already shown through his visits to regions where some of the worst examples of brutality against civilians have been witnessed. This report is also to be commended because it does not avoid direct description of the sort of brutality inflicted on civilians, as well as the countries and regions where this is happening. I would also like to thank Mr. John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, for his briefing.

One of the positive developments in the discourse concerning security in recent years has been the refocusing on issues relating to the security of the individual. The development of the concept of human security from the early nineties and the ground-breaking recognition of the responsibility to protect have given us conceptual approaches in tune with what the Secretary General refers to as the shared fundamental values which make it imperative to recognise the inherent dignity and worth of every human being.

This places a heavy burden, particularly on the Security Council, in its work to maintain peace and security. Its work must include not only the prevention where at all possible of conflict and the resolution of those conflicts which arise. The Security Council also has a role in addressing the very serious issues related to the millions of civilians caught up in conflicts in which they are not combatants and over which they have no control.

The massive displacement of civilians by conflict not only imposes suffering on millions (35 million of concern, according to UNHCR). It also makes much more difficult the re-establishment of peace following conclusion of the conflict. Of particular concern at present is the growing number of displaced persons and refugees from the conflict in

Iraq. Iceland will continue to make its contribution through UNHCR to assisting Iraqi refugees in the neighbouring countries.

Iceland would like to welcome the Secretary General's unambiguous comments earlier this year on the "atrocious inhumane impact of cluster munitions". Iceland will continue its support for the ongoing Oslo process towards a legally binding instrument of international law that should prohibit the use, development, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. This process clearly has added value to the CCW track.

One of the most disturbing chapters in the Secretary General's report concerns sexual violence. Although not exclusively inflicted on women and girls, they are by far the most vulnerable and numerous group of victims. As the report states, such violence, particularly where it is a systematic tool of war, is a grave war crime. The effect of such violence not only inflicts tremendous suffering on individual women and their families, but it also destroys the fabric of societies and communities, making recovery and peacebuilding far more difficult if peace is regained. In this context we welcome the adoption of the resolution on Eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all Their Manifestation, including in conflict and related situations, in the third committee.

Rape is not an inevitable consequence of war. It can be prevented. Effective measures to reduce impunity are essential to signal to all those envisaging the use of such methods that the international community will not tolerate such crimes. The ICC and other tribunals provide the tools for decreasing impunity.

As is observed by many experts, sexual violence is not only the product of conflict. Indeed, sexual violence is incipient in all societies, and it is therefore a duty for all states to look also to their own legislation.

Providing assistance to victims in the form of medical help, counselling and protection against further aggression must also be provided. Iceland has concentrated its efforts in recent years on resettling women at risk of sexual violence from Colombia.

**Vernd barna í stríðsátökum; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands fyrir hönd Norðurlandanna, á opnum fundi öryggisráðsins, 12 febrúar 2008**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We warmly welcome the report of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict pursuant to the Security Council Resolutions 1612, 1379, 1460 and 1539. Widespread and unacceptable patterns of violations against children are recorded. Armed forces and armed groups that recruit and exploit children in armed conflicts are named. Tangible results have also been achieved.

We fully endorse the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report concerning child rights and the role of child protection in future peacekeeping missions.

The Nordic countries support the Secretary General's recommendation that the Security Council give equal weight to all six categories of grave violations set out in Resolution 1612. We are nevertheless mindful of the need to expand the efforts of the Working Group with due regard to existing resources and capabilities. In view of these constraints it has been suggested that violations perpetrated with an intent to harm children should be prioritised.

In this regard, one of the most disturbing chapters in the Secretary General's report concerns sexual and gender based violence in armed conflict. Women and girls are the largest and most vulnerable group of victims. Sexual and gender based violence is not an inevitable consequence of war. It can and must be prevented. In line with the recommendations of the report of the Secretary General and the Working Group on

Children and Armed Conflict, we support that gender based violence be included on the list of violations that trigger listing in the annexes of the Secretary General's report.

Only rarely are those violating the right of children successfully prosecuted. We welcome the progress made by the International Criminal Court and the Special Court for Sierra Leone in bringing charges against individuals suspected of grave violations of the rights of the child. Increased efforts by national courts are nevertheless necessary towards ending impunity for those who commit crimes against children. It is in the interest of governments to co-operate closely with the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism to bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes for the sake of reconciliation, sustainable peace and development.

The Nordic countries, echoing the recommendation of the Secretary General, encourage the Security Council to refer violations against children in armed conflict to the ICC for investigation and prosecution when national governments persistently fail to prosecute such crimes.

We endorse the Secretary General's comprehensive recommendation that encourages Member States to conclude a binding instrument that prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Furthermore, we encourage the Special Representative of the Secretary General to continue her reporting on this crucial issue.

The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism greatly enhanced the Security Council's ability to receive reliable and timely information. Its collaborative nature – embodied in the country level taskforces – also underlines the importance of dialogue between the parties to a conflict, the international community and civil society in furthering the interests of children affected by armed conflict. To enhance the relevance of this approach, the Nordic countries encourage the Security Council to continue to call upon parties in all relevant situations of armed conflict to submit concrete time-bound action plans detailing their efforts to end grave violations against children. We welcome last week's decision by the Government of Colombia to take part in the mechanism.

Furthermore, the Security Council should not shy away from considering effective targeted measures against those who commit grave violations against children. We call on the working group to explore the full range of measures to bring persistent perpetrators to book whether they fall dramatically short of their own action plan objectives or choose to ignore the mechanism altogether.

The close interest paid to this Security Council open debate bears witness to a widely shared confidence in resolution 1612 and the mechanisms set up in its wake. The removal of parties to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire from the Secretary General's watch list is one example of the efficacy of 1612.

Further progress depends on our willingness to build on this and other successes. The Nordic countries encourage the Security Council to ensure that it pays equal attention to children affected by armed conflict whether specific situations are on its agenda or not.

**Ástandið í Afganistan; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands, fyrir hönd Norðurlanda, á opnum fundi öryggisráðsins, 12. mars 2007**

In support of the EU statement it is my honour to address the Security Council on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and my own country Iceland.

The Nordic countries have extensive cooperation in Afghanistan and, with their coordinated efforts, are among the major contributors to the stabilization and reconstruction of the country. We support the emerging consensus that the UN must take on a stronger role in coordination of international efforts and give a much needed boost to the stabilisation and development of Afghanistan and welcome this opportunity to

reaffirm the central role of the UN. We also welcome the Secretary-General's appointment of Mr. Kai Eide of Norway as the new SRSG and hope that the discussions in the Security Council will serve to give him and UNAMA the support and mandate needed to take on the challenging tasks ahead.

UNAMA's role in coordination and support of Afghan authorities must be strengthened with a view to reinforcing Afghan leadership and enhancing international cohesion. This includes coordination with ISAF, which plays a key role, under a Security Council mandate, in establishing a secure environment for reconstruction and development. The provisions of the Afghanistan Compact and national strategies such as the upcoming Afghan National Development Strategy should be the foundation of our engagement.

To enable UNAMA and the new SRSG to fulfil the expectations of leading coordination of international efforts in Afghanistan, the Security Council and UN Member States must give UNAMA and the SRSG the political backing and authority needed. It is also essential that expectations are matched by resources and the UN given full support to exert its leading role and more fully accomplishing all aspects of the UNAMA mandate.

We welcome the Secretary-General's focus on sub-national governance and call for a further increase in the UN's presence at the provincial level and would welcome an update on the efforts made to fill vacant posts in UNAMA to strengthen geographical coverage. Increased coverage would enable the UN to better focus on capacity-building of Afghan authorities at all levels and we note the efforts of the national government in strengthening governance throughout Afghanistan, in particular through the creation of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG).

Humanitarian challenges remain extensive and we are concerned that large areas of the country remain inaccessible to assistance due to insecurity. We look forward to the adoption of the Security Council Resolution renewing the Mandate of UNAMA.

The human rights situation in Afghanistan is precarious at best and human rights abuses are widespread. We encourage the Afghan Government to clearly demonstrate its commitment towards improving and protecting the human rights of all Afghans, and to show leadership in championing core human rights issues such as freedom of speech and rule of law. An independent human rights commission and a strong, pluralistic civil society are important achievements and imperative for introducing internationally recognised human rights standards into Afghanistan.

We support the Secretary-General's observation on the need for a common approach that integrates security, governance, rule of law, Human Rights and social and economic development. An integrated approach should not only focus on the immediate security challenges, but combine the political, development and security efforts so that they better mutually support each other. An integrated approach should also be based on a gender perspective and acknowledge the need for efforts to fight discrimination and strengthen the participation of Afghan women in all these areas, and in society at large.

Efforts to establish security, including through training Afghan National Security Forces are essential. In recognition of the link between security and development, the efforts of the UN, the EU and NATO should be as coherent and coordinated as possible. Measures to this end will be discussed at the NATO/ISAF Summit in Bucharest next month. The role of UNAMA is key in creating a more coherent and unified approach of the international community's efforts as well as vis-à-vis the Afghan Government.

A strengthened role for the UN in Afghanistan needs to make use of the whole UN system's capacities and efforts. The activities of the UN Country Team should effectively support the implementation of UNAMA's mandate and overall objectives.

We believe the Secretary-General's report and the comments provided will contribute positively to improved results for the Afghan people of our continued engagement in Afghanistan. We reaffirm our long term commitment to contribute to this effect.



**Létt vopn; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands, fyrir hönd Norðurlanda, á opnum fundi öryggisráðsins, 30. apríl 2008**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries; Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland.

It is a well-known fact that small arms and light weapons maim and kill hundreds of thousands of people every year, create fear and insecurity, divert resources that are better needed elsewhere, and hinder post-conflict recovery.

Security is a precondition for development, and the interlinkages between security issues, humanitarian problems and development are increasingly recognised.

Combating and eradicating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects is therefore fundamental to improving global, regional and national security as well as necessary social and economic development.

Let me re-iterate that the Nordic countries fully support the efforts to deal with the challenges posed by man-portable air defence systems.

The United Nations Programme of Action from 2001 remains the global framework for cooperative efforts to combat illicit arms. The Nordic countries firmly support the full implementation of the commitments in the PoA.

In doing so, we call for enhanced partnerships with all relevant stake-holders. We call for enhanced cooperation among governments. All relevant parts of the UN family must contribute. In this respect let me reiterate the importance of the Security Council. It is vital for the Council to address the challenges posed by small arms and light weapons in relation to human security. In this respect we must fully recognise the gender implications of this threat. Likewise we believe that the Peacebuilding Commission must take fully into account the complexities in carrying out its task. We cannot achieve progress unless we engage regional institutions. We must further strengthen the partnership with civil society.

The Nordic countries intend to continue contributing in this joint undertaking. We are ready to provide financial resources, as we have done in recent years. Within the framework of the Nordic-African ministerial meeting, we have met with African colleagues both in Geneva and in New York to discuss specific issues relating to the illicit trade and the proliferation of SALW and its negative impact on development in Africa.

We cannot allow the Third Biennial Meeting of States under the PoA to fail as was the case with the 2006 Review Conference. We must aim for a successful BMS3 that brings the member states together around the priority issues identified by the Chair-Designate and that makes recommendations on improved implementation of the UN PoA. This will be crucial in order to strengthen international efforts on small arms and light weapons. A successful BMS3 will pave the way for more ambitious and more effective global work to combat the illicit trade in SALW in the coming years.

Firstly, we must take stock on where we stand on the implementation of the 2005 instrument on marking and tracing. Most of us would have preferred a legally binding instrument. Yet, now the challenge is to ensure that all countries adhere to this politically binding instrument.

Secondly, the Nordic countries have for years called for more effective international cooperation in addressing the question of brokering of small arms and light weapons. We have advocated an international instrument against illicit brokering. Yet, we note that the recent UN Governmental Group of Experts (GGE) has drawn other conclusions. Our challenge is now to identify practical measures which will make a difference in our common efforts to fight illicit brokering. The recommendations made by the GGE should form the basis of this discussion during BMS3.

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Thirdly, the upcoming meeting in New York should also consider national implementation of the PoA. It is therefore vital that all member states submit their national reports in a timely manner.

Fourthly, we consider civil society, such as non-governmental organisations and academia to be important partners, both in shaping policy and in implementation. We support enhanced NGO participation in meetings under PoA, and not least at the upcoming Third Biennial Meeting of States.

While the PoA is valuable, we need a legally binding treaty to regulate arms trade. We look forward to the outcome of the Governmental Group of Experts which has been established to clarify the modalities for an Arms Trade Treaty.

Last year, all the Nordic countries articulated their views on such a treaty to the UN Secretariat. From our perspective, an ATT is feasible, doable and desirable. We are convinced that an ATT could facilitate the task for the Security Council. We are also of the view that an ATT should properly capture key dimensions such as human rights, development and contribute to a broader humanitarian agenda.

Illicit small arms and light weapons represent a threat to human security, peace building efforts and development. We must forge an even stronger global partnership to combat this menace. The UN must be in the lead, but regional institutions play a vital role in our broader international efforts.

### **Aðgerðir gegn kynferðislegu ofbeldi í vopnuðum átökum; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands, fyrir hönd Norðurlanda, á opnum fundi öryggisráðsins, 19. júní 2008**

I have the honour of delivering the following statement on behalf of all five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, each one of which is co-sponsoring the resolution today.

First allow me to thank the US Presidency of the Security Council for organising this open debate on Women, Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Situations of Armed Conflict.

Women are often victims of armed conflict but they can also play a central role in preventing and resolving violent conflict: as actors in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The ongoing, high incidence of horrific sexual violence against women and girls in conflicts demands the attention of the international community as a human rights matter and as a question of ensuring respect for international humanitarian law. It is an issue bearing directly on peace and security and it is, therefore, very timely and appropriate that the Security Council addresses the issue again. The landmark resolution 1325 continues to need full implementation.

It is clear that the use of rape and sexual violence exacerbates conflicts and also perpetuates them long after active hostilities are over. These crimes inflict indelible scars on individuals, families and societies which make reconciliation and peace building much more difficult. The scars of sexual violence on the psyche of the victims, their families, the children it often results in, and even the perpetrators, are the explosive remnants of war of the mind, erupting unpredictably, doing long-term damage and making reconstruction of a sustainable peace very difficult indeed.

A climate of impunity on sexual violence continues to exist. We have to all join forces to end impunity for such crimes. The Security Council should respond urgently to incidents of sexual violence in conflicts and bring measures to bear to ensure that parties to armed conflict understand clearly that they will pay a heavy price for employing or permitting sexual violence. All member states must do their part in ensuring that individuals suspected of such crimes are brought to justice in accordance with the necessary legislation at the national level. We also call on States to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court, whose statute explicitly states that rape and other forms

of sexual violence can be prosecuted as war crimes or crimes against humanity. Amnesties should not extend to crimes of sexual violence.

Clear guidance to peacekeeping missions is also needed on how to operationalize the protection of civilians mandate, including the protection of women and girls from sexual violence. This includes strong and specific mandates from the Security Council, and sufficient means, as well as a more comprehensive reporting by the United Nations system. There is a need to make full use of available expertise, including from human rights mechanisms such as the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. All member states should ensure that training of peacekeepers includes training on SCR 1325. Furthermore, it is vital that peace-building and reconstruction plans include comprehensive victim protection and support mechanisms, such as shelters for the victims and their families and gender units within the police.

A key element in ensuring the protection of women and girls from sexual violence during conflicts and in post conflict situations is participation of women in decision-making processes in all areas and at all levels. Whether it is matters of practical protection measures, such as the gathering of fuel in safety, or more complex matters, such as the reintegration of combatants into society, the input and experiences of women are essential to success and sustainability. The participation of women, therefore, is directly relevant to the maintenance of peace and security. New avenues must also be explored, in addition to military and police, on how to deploy more women into peacekeeping missions, including by establishing civilian observer components. Stronger efforts must be made by the UN to include women in discussions on the management and resolution of conflicts and in peace building, including in rebuilding societies, security sector reform, transitional justice and post-conflict political and economic processes.

The Secretary General and relevant UN bodies should also redouble their efforts to recruit women to high-level positions. A situation where only one out of 37 SRSGs is a woman is simply not acceptable. The Secretary General should consider whether the setting of quotas for the participation of women at certain levels could be an effective way forward. Gender advisers should be attached to all missions and should be given rank with the necessary authority and influence. In addition, the UN system as a whole should redouble its efforts to recruit more women at all levels. The same appeal goes to all UN member states. It is our responsibility to ensure that the UN has a solid basis to recruit from.

The zero tolerance policy of the Secretary General on sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peace keeping mission should continue and be strengthened. There must not be impunity for peacekeepers either. Again, wider participation by women in such missions would help. The highly successful Indian women's police corps in Liberia is encouraging in this regard, as is the high percentage of women in the group of Nigerian police that Nordic and African police have jointly trained for UNAMID. It is also important to provide appropriate and recurrent training to all personnel involved in peacekeeping operations, including on ethical conduct and the zero tolerance policy.

Regional bodies are becoming increasingly important actors, under the mandate of the Security Council, in addressing regional issues of peace and security. Such bodies should be closely linked to the discussions and decisions in relation to women, peace and security. The Secretary General is encouraged to take a leading role in this matter.

The Security Council should seriously consider establishing a working group to monitor conflict situations where sexual violence is widely or systematically used as a weapon of war, as is the case in DRC and Sudan. Such a working group could assist the Council in reacting rapidly to urgent cases and making proposals on appropriate actions, including emergency obstetric and other sexual and reproductive health services and measures to prevent and treat HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, psychosocial support as well as early measures to enforce the rule of law and crime victims' access to justice.

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We support the proposal made by the US in their concept paper that Security Council mandates should be strengthened to prevent sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and provide more protection for women and girls from widespread and systematic attacks by parties to armed conflicts. This should be dealt with systematically both when mandates for on-going operations come up for renewal as well as when mandates for new operations are adopted.

We further encourage the Council to follow up on the recommendation by the Secretary-General of developing a monitoring mechanism to improve its contribution to preventing and redressing violence against women in armed conflict.

Finally, all the Nordic countries have completed or are in the final stages of completing national implementation plans for resolution 1325 and encourage other member states to do the same as a matter of urgency. We also suggest that lessons learned from countries that have such a plan be used in supporting other countries in preparing their own plans.

### **Vernd barna í vopnuðum átökum; Ávarp fyrir hönd Norðurlönda á opnum fundi öryggisráðsins, 17. júlí 2008**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Children, least of all, bear responsibility for armed conflicts. Yet when conflicts arise, they suffer the most. We therefore commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for her valuable work. Through her tireless efforts, she lends a voice to children that otherwise would not be heard.

The Nordic countries reiterate their unequivocal endorsement of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report concerning child rights and the role of child protection in future peacekeeping missions. Each of the six categories of grave violations set out in Security Council Resolution 1612 must be addressed with equal resolve. We must act to put an end to all assaults on the human dignity of children.

Women and girls constitute the largest and most vulnerable groups of victims in armed conflicts. Therefore both these groups deserve our constant attention. In line with the recommendations of the report of the Secretary General and the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, we ask that sexual and gender based violence be included on the list of violations that trigger listing in the annexes of the Secretary General's report.

We recognize the absolute importance of Security Council Resolution 1612 and the mechanisms set up in its wake. We welcome the reports of the Special Representative announcing the release of hundreds of children from armed groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad. We also welcome the reports of progress made in Liberia and Sierra Leone. However, we remain deeply concerned at the high levels of violations against children in the Sudan, including their recruitment by armed forces and groups, rape and sexual violence, especially in Darfur.

Although promising progress has been made in some areas, there often remains a gap between words and deeds, between U.N. resolutions and actions by affected Member States. The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism presents the Security Council with reliable information on grave violations of child rights. With this knowledge comes responsibility. The Security Council should therefore seriously consider effective targeted measures against those who commit grave violations against children.

We call on the working group to explore the full range of measures to hold persistent perpetrators responsible whether they fall short of their own action plan objectives or choose to ignore the mechanism altogether.

In order to end impunity for perpetrators against children, increased efforts are needed. We welcome the progress made by the International Criminal Court in persecuting

individuals suspected of grave violations of the rights of the child. Nevertheless, effective national courts are also needed. Governments should benefit from the competence and the capacity of the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism. We encourage the Security Council to refer violations against children in armed conflict to the ICC for investigation and prosecution when national governments continuously fail to address such crimes.

The body of international humanitarian and human rights instruments leaves us with strong moral, political, and legal obligations that must lead to action – to provide a protective environment for the development of children, – enriching their childhoods, expanding their opportunities and inspiring hope in our common future. The recently concluded Convention on Cluster munitions to be opened for signature in December this year, and the ongoing negotiations within the framework of the Convention on Conventional Weapons, will hopefully serve as effective tools towards this end.

The Nordic countries encourage the Security Council to ensure that it pays equal attention to all children affected by armed conflict. Procedural arguments concerning whether the specific situation is on its agenda or not, should not undermine the Security Council's ability to discuss the plight of all children affected by armed conflict and if necessary to act accordingly.

### III. viðauki: Ræður í allsherjarþinginu og undirnefndum

Ársskýrsla aðalframkvæmdastjóra SP; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 9. október 2007

The annual report of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on the work of the Organization is an excellent overview of the achievements during the past year, as well as of the complex challenges facing us. The report helps us keep a focus on the main issues - on the need for good governance and accountability, both within the Organization, but also in Member States.

We thank the President of the General Assembly for his initiative to make **Climate Change** the theme for the General Debate of this Assembly and the Secretary General for organizing the high level event on 24 September, which has played an important role in consolidating the global consensus on the need to act. The Kyoto Protocol provides a basis for the continuation of effective action in reducing emissions and the Bali meeting in December should decide to start a process leading to a comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement. Global warming is already devastating the lives of millions and how we address this issue will be a test of our commitment to the values of the United Nations. The poorest in developing countries tend to be hardest hit, those who are least responsible for causing climate change. We have to focus on their needs in our common effort in fighting this global threat. Adaptation to climate change should therefore be dealt with as an integral part of our efforts in attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

In her statement in the general debate last week, the Foreign Minister of Iceland emphasized **development** issues. The Foreign Minister reiterated Iceland's strong commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and highlighted the importance of women's empowerment. Official Development Assistance (ODA) plays a vital role in achieving the MDG's. Our ODA has doubled over the past four years and we aim to be among the top contributors. Increased aid effectiveness is also central to development results. We support the follow-up on the Report of the High-level Panel on **System wide Coherence** which will make the UN more effective in delivering results on the ground. We support the Panel's recommendations concerning gender. Gender mainstreaming has to be addressed in a more systematic manner. We support the establishment of a new gender entity and a new post of Under-Secretary General to strengthen UN's performance in this field of work. The excellent work of UNIFEM must be built upon within the new structures.

On **HIV/AIDS** Iceland fully shares the views of the Secretary General in his report and we believe that the fight against AIDS should remain a priority and that the United Nations should become a model workplace with regard to the issue. The need has indeed become clearer than ever for a sustainable response over the longer term.

Mr. President,

The United Nations is the premier international organization responsible for maintaining **peace and security**. This is a complex, multidimensional task. We support strongly the reinforcement of the work of the UN in the field of conflict prevention. This is indeed in line with the holistic approach we have increasingly applied to our work. "No security without development and no development without security" as has so often been said in this hall.

UN Peacekeeping activity with over one hundred thousand persons has increased rapidly. The new peacebuilding architecture is beginning to prove its existence and value for peacebuilding operations. Iceland will continue to contribute to the Peacebuilding Fund.

Millions experience assaults on their personal security including through **terrorism**. We welcome the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will be an important plan of action in our fight against terrorism. It is now up to us, the member states, to implement it. This successful partnership should be a motivation for us to finalize a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during this General Assembly.

As a small island state without a military of its own, Iceland is concerned at the current situation in the field of **disarmament** where, despite continued efforts of the majority of Member States over a number of years, very little progress has been achieved, some of which is outside the UN framework. Our failures in this area pose a threat to peace and security. Now is the time to renew our efforts. The international community must react collectively and firmly, within the UN framework, to maintain international peace and security. The conclusion of an arms trade treaty would certainly be a significant achievement.

The protection and promotion of fundamental human rights is one of the primary aims of the United Nations. The Secretary-General notes in his report the significant progress the international community has made in advancing **human rights** standards and mechanisms. Iceland welcomes this development. The establishment of the Human Rights Council was an important event. Work should continue on its consolidation.

Most of our work within this institution is interlinked and it is evident that poverty, inequality and the lack of economic and social rights can make the exercise of political and civil rights difficult. We are now about half way to our deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and we will soon need to deliver on our promises. It is incumbent upon those who have the good fortune to be prosperous to join in solidarity with others to make these rights available to all. The security challenges which we face this century are such that they can only be addressed in solidarity with others, within this organization.

**Almenn umræða um afvopnumarmál; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í 1. nefnd allsherjarþingsins, 9. október .2007.**

First of all, Mr. Chairman, may I congratulate you on your election as chair of the First Committee. My tributes also go to the other Members of the Bureau.

Disarmament and non-proliferation in all their aspects are core functions of the United Nations. Weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, have always been a primary concern to the Member States. Conventional weapons, especially small arms, light weapons, landmines and cluster bombs, also pose significant threats to the security and well-being of millions, due to their widespread existence and use.

Even though progress has been slow in recent years in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, this does not mean that we should be complacent. Rather we should redouble our efforts to achieve better results in implementing and strengthening existing agreements and negotiating new agreements in this area.

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is crucial in halting and reversing the reliance on weapons of mass destruction. Although the Treaty has been signed by 177 States and ratified by 140, we still need 10 more ratifications from specific countries for the Treaty to take effect. We once more encourage states that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has played a central role in global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The 2005 NPT Review Conference that was intended to enhance the effectiveness of the Treaty ended in a disappointing outcome. Recent nuclear

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tests, the last one conducted only last year, as well as nuclear proliferation initiatives, are a sad reminder of non-compliance with international obligations, including IAEA safeguard agreements.

Despite the aforementioned situation, positive achievements in this area must not be forgotten. Progress in the six-party talks regarding the de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the decision last week that the nuclear reactor at Yongbyon will be shut down before the end of the year are reassuring. The negotiated arrangement concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran with the IAEA shows promise and, together with diplomatic efforts, will hopefully lead to the intended outcome.

The status of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, with 182 States Members, is welcome news. The High- Level Conference convened on September 27 here in New York recalled that over one-third of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles have already been destroyed. This further shows the importance of collective and concerted efforts by Member States. We would like to thank the Netherlands and Poland for hosting the event.

We welcome the recent establishment of the Implementation Support Unit for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) in Geneva and look forward to further work on strengthening this important Convention.

Iceland is committed to an effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Furthermore, the new process for an arms trade treaty (ATT) launched last year by the General Assembly may prove to be an important step towards the control of import, export and transfers of conventional weapons.

The need to revitalize the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda is clear. To that effect a stronger and more focused effort by all Member States is needed. Iceland is therefore grateful to the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, for having put non-proliferation and revitalization in the field of disarmament high on his agenda. Iceland remains hopeful that the establishment earlier this year of the new Office for Disarmament and the new position of High Representative for Disarmament Affairs will strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation machinery. We congratulate Mr. Sergio Duarte on his appointment to this position and wish him success in his work.

Our failures in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control pose a constant threat to peace and security. A revitalization in this field is long overdue, now is the time to renew our efforts. Iceland, belonging to a group of some 24 Member States of the United Nations that have abolished their armies or never had their own military, encourages all Member States to do their share.

### **Aðgerðir gegn alþjóðlegum hryðjuverkum; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í 6. nefnd allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna um baráttuna gegn hryðjuverkum, 10. október 2007**

Since this is the first time I take the floor in this committee I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee. Congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau on their election. I would like to reassure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support.

We also wish to thank the Secretary General for his report contained in document A/62/160.

Terrorism is a serious threat to peace and security as well as to development and human rights. Recent examples have reminded us that terrorism has a global reach. All states, small or large, are susceptible to terrorist attack. Anyone can fall victim to terrorism, as terrorist targets are most often innocent civilians. Terrorism is a crime against the human values that the UN upholds. It can never be justified under any circumstances, no matter



what the motives, no matter what the objectives. Iceland unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Global problems call for global responses. The United Nations play a crucial role in achieving our common objective in combating terrorism. This is why Iceland welcomed the adoption of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy last year. The Strategy is an important step towards coordinating our efforts in this area. Implementation of the Global Strategy must remain a priority for all States.

Coordination and information sharing are fundamental to the effective functioning of the Global Strategy. The Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook, launched last January, is a helpful tool to that end. I would also like to commend the work of the UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including its support to Member States.

The 16 international conventions and protocols relating to measures against terrorism that have been elaborated within the framework of the United Nations, as well as the 14 regional conventions, are important tools in fighting different aspects of the scourge of terrorism. In order for these initiatives and framework for co-operation to be effective, all nations must become parties to them. Iceland is a party to all the 13 universal legal instruments to prevent terrorist acts as well as the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. We welcome in this regard the entry into force this July of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism from 2005.

As to ongoing work, the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 met in February. Even though consensus has yet to be reached on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the convening of a high-level conference to formulate a joint organized response by Member States to international terrorism, we remain confident that progress will be made in the near future.

I would like to recall the important and far-reaching work by the Security Council in combating terrorism. A number of resolutions have been passed and several subsidiary bodies are assisting in their work, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee. We look forward to closer cooperation in the future in harmonizing effective implementation of these obligations.

Our counter-terrorism efforts are crucial for the protection of peace and security in our world. But it is no less important that these efforts be based on rule of law and respect for human rights. The only acceptable measures to eliminate international terrorism are those that respect these fundamental principles of the United Nations, including humanitarian law and refugee law. To this end, Iceland remains dedicated to the work of the United Nations, aimed at creating a more secure world without the threat of terrorism.

**Starfsemi friðaruppbyggingarnefndar Sameinuðu þjóðanna; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á sérstökum fundi allsherjarþingsins, 10. október 2007**

Let me join others in thanking you for giving us the opportunity to participate in the meeting of the General Assembly devoted to the important work of the Peacebuilding Commission and its first annual report. Let me also use this opportunity to pay tribute to the former Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission, my colleague from Angola, Gaspar Martins, and the two colleagues from Norway and the Netherlands for their steering of the country specific work on Burundi and Sierra Leone as well as my colleague from El Salvador for chairing the work of the working group on lessons learned. The new Chairman, Ambassador, Yukio Takasu, can be assured of our full support and cooperation.

From the outset Iceland has been a strong supporter of the Peacebuilding Commission. We regard the Commission as a key achievement of the UN reform process. The Peacebuilding Commission together with the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund have an important role to play in bridging the gap between conflict and development, focusing on activities in the field.

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The Government of Iceland has contributed one million dollars to the Peacebuilding Fund and is planning further contributions. We urge Member States to contribute to the fund. We are pleased to note that more than 230 million dollars have already been pledged or contributed to it.

After one year of operations it is time to take stock of where we are and offer guidance for our future work. In this context, we warmly welcome the first annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission, contained in document (A/62/137). This comprehensive and important report clearly indicates that considerable progress has been made towards establishing the working methods of the Commission. We applaud the work of the Organizational Committee of the Commission on organizational and procedural issues. Here I would like to mention the adoption of the provisional rules of procedure and the concept paper setting up the framework for the development of integrated peacebuilding strategies.

The Peacebuilding Commission has identified critical priority areas for peace and consolidation for Burundi and Sierra Leone. The development of a integrated peacebuilding strategy (IPBS) in Burundi is an important step in this regard. Iceland welcomes that an IPBS for Sierra Leone has been developed as well. Now, the recommendations of the Commission must be implemented in the countries concerned and within the institutional framework of the United Nations.

The Peacebuilding Commission must now build upon this work and further develop its working methods. The underpinnings are already in place. The focus should remain on practical, effective cooperation and avoiding duplication of efforts.

The working relationships between the Peacebuilding Commission, the Security Council, the General Assembly and ECOSOC should be strengthened through dialogue on a regular basis. Regular meetings between the Peacebuilding Commission Chairs and the presidents of these bodies would be one possibility. We also need to consider increased cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and sub-regional organizations in order to promote peacebuilding in the countries under consideration.

We are pleased that the Peacebuilding Commission has recognized the link between poverty, weak state capacity and conflict and has ensured that the integrated peacebuilding strategies include job creation, especially for youth, capacity development and the delivery of basic social services as priorities. Only by making substantial progress in these areas can the Peacebuilding Commission help to ensure the sustainability of national peacebuilding efforts.

Iceland remains firmly committed to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. The success of this body is absolutely dependent on the political will of the countries concerned and the Member States. The main challenge now facing the Peacebuilding Commission is to maximize its impact on the ground. We all have a duty to ensure that the Peacebuilding Commission becomes an effective tool that can contribute in a significant manner to the establishment of peace, stability and development in post-conflict countries. Iceland is committed to doing its share.

### **Málefni kvenna og jafnrétti kynjanna; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í 3. nefnd allsherjarþingsins, 16. október 2007**

I would like to begin by offering our congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, as well as to the whole Bureau, on your election. You can be sure of my delegation's full cooperation in the work of this important committee in your capable hands.

The theme of today's discussion, Advancement of Women, is of critical importance. Not only as a fundamental human rights issue - and as such an important end in itself - but also as a precondition for successful peace-building, for sustainable achievements in the global fight against poverty and for the general health and wellbeing of all peoples.

World leaders have repeatedly called for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration, the platform of action and the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly. However, it remains a disappointing fact that despite some progress, full implementation continues to fall short of commitments. We therefore have to remain vigilant and active in continuing to work for women's rights and gender equality.

Iceland is firmly committed to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and its optional protocol, and we urge all those that have not done so to ratify the Convention and the Protocol as soon as possible. This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Committee which actively monitors the implementation of the Convention. Over this time the Committee has made significant contributions to advancing women's equality around the world, and Iceland will continue to firmly support its work in the years to come.

Iceland attaches great importance to the Commission on the Status of Women, and we look forward to next year's discussions on key issues in financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Violence against women remains a pervasive and persistent reality. Be it domestic violence behind closed doors, trafficking in women and children, or a systematic aggression involving thousands of girls and women, gender based violence is a universal phenomenon, affecting almost one in every three women around the world. This fact, often unrecognized, or even silenced, needs to be systematically addressed. Here, the UN plays a central role, both through global advocacy and leadership, as well as through operational work at national and regional levels.

On that note, we welcome the report of the Secretary General, contained in document A/62/201 on the Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and strongly support the measures introduced there within. Moreover, we truly appreciate the attention the Secretary General's study on violence against women has received, and hope that it will contribute to increased awareness of the need to systematically address this pervasive problem.

In this context, Iceland would also like to underline the importance of Security Council Resolution 1325, on Women, Peace and Security, as an instrument to ensure that women in war, and women that have endured war, enjoy justice and protection, and that they are fully included in the rebuilding of communities in the aftermath of war. Iceland continues to strongly support the resolution, and accordingly we are working on an action plan to integrate the resolution into the policy and working methods of the Iceland Crisis Response Unit (ICRU).

In order for the UN to be an effective contributor to the advancement of women and gender equality, the organization needs to be able to deliver its normative and operational role in a coherent and coordinated manner. Iceland therefore welcomes the establishment of the Inter Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, which we hope will contribute to increased and coherent focus on the importance of women's empowerment and gender equality throughout the UN system.

However, Iceland continues to believe that the current UN structures and approaches to gender issues remain too fragmented and do not appropriately reflect the importance of the matter. We therefore support the establishment of a new gender entity to strengthen the UN's performance in this field of work. Establishing the post of Under-Secretary General for gender equality issues should provide strong leadership and coordination, and it is Iceland's hope that this post will be quickly filled.

Women play a central role in economic and social development and experience has shown that strong links exist between women's empowerment and poverty reduction. The advancement of women and women's rights should therefore be a central theme in all development efforts and in our global fight against poverty.

This is duly reflected in Iceland's policy on development cooperation, which attaches central importance to the advancement of women. UNIFEM has been a key partner in this regard, and I am particularly pleased to conclude my intervention by formally announcing that in order to support the excellent work of UNIFEM, the Government of Iceland has decided to double its current contribution to the Fund. This marks a thirty fold increase in Iceland's contributions to UNIFEM since 2003, an increase which will bring Iceland amongst the top donors to UNIFEM

**Stefnumótun í alþjóðlegri þróunarsamvinnu; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á fundi í 2. nefnd allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 17. október 2007**

Since this is the first time Iceland takes the floor in the Second Committee during the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly, allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election. I wish to express our support and we stand ready to work with you.

In my statement today I will focus on item 59 (b) on the agenda: the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities of the United Nations Development System (TCPR).

System wide coherence and coordination amongst different UN entities is fundamental to ensure the effectiveness of the UN development system, and to maximize results on the ground. That should be the guiding role of this year's TCPR.

We thank the Secretary General for a good and comprehensive analytical report. The conclusions and recommendations put forward by the SG in the report will provide a solid basis for a comprehensive resolution, aimed at advancing the recommendations by the High Level Panel on System Wide Coherence, and to strengthen the achievements made since the last TCPR. The "Delivering as One UN" exercise is an important element of these efforts and we look forward to reviewing and building on the lessons learned from the eight country pilots.

Madame Chair, I would like to highlight, out of many important issues, the following four:

First, national ownership should be at the heart of this process, and country demand should guide all the UN's operations in the field. Here, national development and poverty reduction strategies are a fundamental point of departure, to which the UN agencies, funds and programs should align their assistance.

Secondly, as the transition from relief to development is a delicate process which requires strong coordination amongst all actors, fragmentation and duplication of work is especially detrimental to success in post conflict and disaster situations. It is therefore important that particular attention is given to streamlining the UN's operational activities in these situations, so as to ensure timely, effective and coherent assistance.

Thirdly, while acknowledging the progress already made, Iceland would like to emphasize the importance of accelerating gender mainstreaming and heighten the focus on women's empowerment in the UN's work at the country level. It is also important to achieve a much better gender balance in appointments within the UN system itself. On that note, let me also state in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee Iceland's strong wish to see a much improved UN gender architecture with a clear-cut accountability, spearheaded by an Under Secretary General.

Fourthly, although internal coherence and coordination within the UN agencies, funds and programs is of essence, it should be kept in mind that it is also crucial that the UN continues to enhance its cooperation and harmonization with other development partners operating in the field. This is particularly true in disaster and post-conflict situations, and we support the ongoing efforts to improve collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions to that effect.

We find it of great importance that we arrive at a comprehensive conclusion in our deliberations on the TCPR, the results of which will serve as a guiding light in the UN's operational activities in the years to come. Finally, in order to ensure a proper implementation of the resolution, we stand ready to participate in discussions on the progress to date at the 2008 session of the Economic and Social Council.

**Málefni barna; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í 3. nefnd allsherjarþingsins, 18. október 2007**

Discrimination and violence against children continues to persist in all parts of the world, in many cases caused by armed conflict, poverty, lack of education and insufficient protection.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has proven to be an invaluable tool in our efforts to further the rights of children and the Government of Iceland remains fully committed to the implementation of it and its two optional Protocols, which Iceland has already ratified. In this context, we wish to emphasise the importance of full and effective implementation of these instruments by all Member States. We, however, remain concerned about the large number of reservations to the Convention.

The study submitted to the General Assembly last year by Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, the independent expert of the UN in-depth study on violence against children, exposed the horrendous scale and impact of violence against children. We highly appreciate the work of Professor Pinheiro and the necessary attention his study has brought to this serious issue at a global level. His study has been a strong catalyst for change, identifying areas where concrete action is needed.

We warmly welcome the comprehensive follow-up report to his study, contained in document A/62/209. The report notes that significant progress has been made but also reminds us that much remains to be done regarding its recommendations. We firmly support recommendations of the report, in particular the main recommendation to establish a Special Representative on violence against children, to be appointed for a period of 4 years.

Iceland also welcomes the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, contained in document A/62/228. The report, which is split into two parts, provides an overview of critical themes relating to children and armed conflict and highlights significant developments over the reporting period. It emphasizes the role of field visits of the Special Representative as a key element of her advocacy strategy and outlines the main findings of field visits that she has undertaken.

The report also lists commitments made by parties to conflict during the course of those field visits, stressing the need for timely and systematic follow-up to ensure their practical implementation. Iceland fully supports the conclusions and urges Member States to apply concrete and targeted measures against recalcitrant violators, particularly where they have refused to enter into dialogue or where such dialogue has failed to yield tangible protection for children.

Part two of the report presents the findings of a strategic review of the study by Graça Machel entitled "Impact of armed conflict on children" which marked the 10-year anniversary of that groundbreaking report (see document A/51/306 and Add.1). Iceland supports recommendations of part two of the report and fully supports the notion that the most effective way of protecting children's rights is to prevent conflict and promote peace and security.

We take note of the report the Secretary General prepared for this meeting on the girl child which further demonstrates the scope of discrimination and violence against girls. The report underlines the need to give special attention to the situation of girls.

Last June, the Icelandic Parliament adopted a plan of action with the aim of strengthening children's rights and support to families. The Government has already appointed an inter-

ministerial coordinating body to be responsible for its implementation. The priorities to be found in this action plan include an examination and monitoring of the implementation of UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, especially with regard to the remarks made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Secondly, the plan of action addresses the importance of the Council of Europe's Committee of Minister's Recommendation, Rec(2006)19, on policy to support positive parenting and the identification of appropriate strategies for non-violent upbringing of children.

Iceland would like to use this opportunity to draw attention to the constructive nature of this approach as it involves a practical guidance for parents on the basic principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The final emphasis of the Icelandic action plan to be mentioned is that it initiates a process for the ratification of the new Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 July 2007. This Convention will be open for signature of the Member States later this month. It is undoubtedly one of the most significant steps in the development of international tools to protect children from all forms of sexual abuse in recent years.

Iceland has underlined the importance of close cooperation between the United Nations, NGO's, civil society and governments in order to promote and protect the human rights of children in an effective and comprehensive manner. UNICEF's role in safeguarding rights and interests of children is of key importance. Iceland's emphasis on the work of UNICEF is reflected in our substantially increased financial contributions to UNICEF. I am also proud of the fact that the people of Iceland have been particularly active and make one of the highest contribution per capita to UNICEF of national societies.

Five years have now passed since the Special Session on Children in the General Assembly. We look forward to the commemorative high-level plenary meeting that will be held 11-12 December. The meeting will provide us with an excellent opportunity to measure the degree of implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action contained in the document "A World Fit for Children".

The children of the world are the future and it is our duty to protect them on all fronts. Violence against children is an abhorrent offence against human rights. It is never acceptable and must never be tolerated. While we have made significant progress, there is still much to be done. The international community has made many commitments to protect children's rights and combat violence directed towards children. We must honour our commitments and turn our words into action.

**Fjárlagafrumvarp Sameinuðu þjóðanna 2008-2009; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í 5. nefnd allsherjarþingsins, 25. október 2007**

I would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for presenting the United Nation's Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2008-2009, as well as the Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Rahjat Saha, for briefing us on the committee's report on the budget proposals.

Furthermore, as this is the first time Iceland takes the floor in the fifth committee during this session, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and other members of the Bureau, on your election and reassure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support.

Today's discussion marks the official start of our negotiations on the 2008-2009 Proposed Programme Budget, the results of which will have a fundamental effect on the operations of the United Nations in the coming years. It is during these negotiations that we put the puzzles together and address collectively the different mandates and responsibilities of the UN, taking into account the complementarities and the necessary trade-offs we are faced with within a restricted budget envelope. The final aim of these

negotiations should be to ensure that the Secretary General has the necessary resources to fulfill the mandates he has been entrusted with.

In its totality, the Secretary General's Proposed Programme Budget entails a considerable budget increase, and when broken down it includes a number of very important individual budget proposals. As we will certainly discuss these proposals thoroughly in the weeks to come, I will not comment on them separately at this moment.

However, what Iceland would like to emphasize is the central importance of having a balanced approach when dealing with the budget proposals. We view a balanced approach as encompassing the following key elements: Firstly, that there is a balance between the resources available and resources allocated, or, in other words, budgetary and fiscal discipline needs to be respected and secondly, there needs to be a balance between the emphasis given to different mandates within the budget, taking into account the fundamental priorities of the UN as reflected in the organization's main pillars and the mandates provided by the General Assembly.

As said before, it is through our important deliberations on the Programme Budget, that we put the puzzles together and back our mandates with the resources needed for implementation. It is Iceland's sincere wish that, guided by a balanced approach, our deliberations will lead to a successful conclusion of this 5<sup>th</sup> Committee Session on the Biennial Budget - both on time and by a consensus - thereby providing the UN with a strong support for its work in the coming years.

**Skýrsla Alþjóðakjarnorkumálastofnunarinnar; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 29. október 2007**

Let me start by thanking the Director General, Dr. ElBaradei, for his comprehensive report on the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iceland is among the co-sponsoring States of the draft resolution on the report of the IAEA.

The IAEA celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last July. Iceland would like to reaffirm its commitment to the organization and its valuable role in international nuclear co-operation and nuclear safety. The three pillars of the IAEA statute, Safety and Security, Science and Technology and Safeguards and Verification, remain solid. But verification of the peaceful use of nuclear materials in order to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons is presently facing its greatest challenge.

We as Member states cannot spare any efforts in securing a high level of safety in all nuclear and radiological applications and installations. Iceland strongly supports international co-operation in order to maintain and improve safety in this area and reiterates the important and indispensable role of the IAEA in this respect.

Iceland attaches great importance to the IAEA's technical co-operation work, aiming at the use of nuclear technology in a safe, secure and sustainable manner. This includes the areas of human health, food and agriculture, nuclear science and management of radioactive waste. Nuclear technology plays an important role in fighting the spread of disease and hunger, in particular, in the developing countries. Iceland recognizes this valuable work and makes an annual voluntary contribution to the IAEA Technology Fund.

We welcome recent developments with regard to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Iceland appreciates the swift response by the IAEA in February following the diplomatic breakthrough. Shutdown of the Yongbyon nuclear facilities and the implementation of verification and monitoring measures by the IAEA are important first steps. We urge the DPRK to resume the implementation of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement under the NPT.

With respect to the nuclear activities of Iran we hope that the current work plan between the IAEA and Iran will lead to a resolution of outstanding questions. Effective

implementation of the work plan is of course a prerequisite for any progress. However we still have strong concerns concerning the implications of Iran's nuclear programme. We regret that Iran has not fulfilled its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions or requirements made by the IAEA. The Government of Iran must take steps to build confidence regarding the scope and nature of its nuclear programme. We urge Iran to ratify and bring into force the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the IAEA is indispensable for nuclear co-operation and global nuclear safety. I would like to reiterate Iceland's full support for the organization and our willingness to contribute to its work and co-operation efforts.

**Sjálfbær þróun og sjálfbær orka í þágu þróunarríkja; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í 2. nefnd allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna um sjálfbæra þróun, 29. október 2007**

Climate change is already devastating the lives of millions. How we address this issue will be a test of our commitment to the values of the United Nations. The poorest in developing countries tend to be hardest hit, those who are least responsible for causing climate change. We have to focus on their needs in our common effort in fighting this global threat. The Kyoto Protocol provides a basis for the continuation of action in reducing emissions, which, however, is not enough. We need a comprehensive post 2012 climate agreement. The Bali meeting in December should decide on modalities for a process leading to such agreement in Copenhagen in 2009.

Climate change and desertification remain inextricably linked. In the last millennium Iceland has lost 50% of its vegetation and 95% of tree cover. With the oldest Soil Conservation Service in the world, established in 1907, Iceland gradually reversed the process and gained experience and knowledge in combating land degradation and desertification. Based on this knowledge the Government of Iceland has recently decided to fund an international training program in land restoration and soil conservation. It is being developed as a 3-year pilot project that started this year, the first fellows attended a course on soil conservation in Iceland during the summer. As of next year, the program will provide about six to eight experts from developing countries with a six month training programme in Iceland to learn about soil conservation, land restoration, and sustainable development. The Land Restoration Training Program is under consideration to become a part of the UNU Training Programs. Two such programs already operate in Iceland; the UNU Geothermal Training Programme and the UNU Fisheries Training Programme.

Improving energy services in developing countries is a key to eradicating poverty. Increasingly we learn more and more about the complex relationship between the use of energy resources, climate change and sustainable development. Our challenge is to find a way to safeguard the world's ecosystems, while raising the level of development and fostering economic growth. We should not have to make choices between development and a clean environment. If we reduce our dependency on fossil energy sources and substantially expand the share of renewables in the world energy demand, we could have both, i.e. cleaner environment and development. We are pleased that this is well presented in the Secretary General's report.

Increased use of renewable energy offers various economic, environmental, security and reliability benefits. The basic technologies are already at hand. It is therefore worrying that the use of renewable energy resources remains considerably below its potential. What is needed is an enabling policy framework and leadership. The International Financial Institutions should be encouraged to raise the profile of renewables in their lending strategies. The UN has a role to play in promoting this development.

Iceland's journey from poverty to economic growth and wellbeing was mostly fuelled by harnessing the country's renewable resources, including its energy resources. Today



geothermal energy and hydropower account for more than 70 percent of Iceland's primary energy consumption. Iceland has a long-standing commitment to international cooperation on the sustainable use of energy and the United Nations University's Geothermal Training Programme, hosted by Iceland, has for many years been a valuable tool for the sharing of geothermal expertise with developing countries. Iceland's bilateral development cooperation agency, ICEIDA, has supported Uganda developing its geothermal potential for a number of years. Most recently Iceland has been engaged in ARGeo, the African Rift Geothermal Facility, a UNEP-GEF/WB program supporting the African Rift countries developing their geothermal resources.

ICEIDA's most recent bilateral development partner, Nicaragua, has considerable geothermal potential and so do about 90 other countries. Iceland is initiating a long term engagement with the Government of Nicaragua, enabling it to manage its geothermal resources sustainably.

Climate change is already a dangerous threat to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and their adaptation to current and future impacts of global warming should be a priority for all of us. We thank the Secretary General for his report on the implementation of the Mauritius strategy for Sustainable Development of SIDS, which is a good overview of actions. Although much has been done we need to do more. The small island states are least responsible and most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

We are committed to doing our part in promoting the implementation of the Mauritius strategy. As an island state, Iceland shares many of the SIDS concerns in the area of sustainable development and there is indeed scope for cooperation in many areas. Since the Mauritius meeting we have used at least 1.7 million USD under the umbrella of the Icelandic SIDS initiative on many different projects and we will continue with our efforts.

Development initiatives of the Icelandic Government draw primarily on Iceland's expertise and experience in fisheries, clean energy development and related issues. Within the framework of Iceland's Policy on Development Cooperation, special attention is given to cooperation with SIDS. Icelandic authorities have been approached by authorities in the SIDS, as well as investors and developers in the Icelandic energy sector, with the interest of exploring the possibility of geothermal power in small islands. Building on this interest the government of Iceland is now in the process of forming a public-private partnership with stakeholders in the SIDS, to develop pilot projects in the geothermal energy sector. In order to advance the partnership between Iceland and SIDS, it is proposed that High-level Fora of officials, business leaders, key scientists and university experts be held in the first half of 2008 under the heading, "Iceland and SIDS's Approach to the Sustainable use of Natural Resources", one in the Caribbean region and another in the Pacific region. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland will take responsibility for organizing the Fora.

Icelandic companies have been exporting know how regarding harnessing of geothermal energy. The largest project Icelandic companies have been involved in is a geothermal district heating project in the city of Xian yang in China. Furthermore, an Icelandic investment fund, Reykjavik Energy Invest (REI), specializing in sustainable energy investments, has decided to invest 150 million US dollars in geothermal development in Africa during the next 5 years, starting in Djibouti.

Madame Chair,

I have only addressed few of the many important issues under the agenda item on sustainable development. The issues that I am not able to address today are equally important. Sustainable Development is our common challenge and Climate Change is a difficulty, which we have to address together. I will conclude by quoting Mr. Winston Churchill: "*The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty*".

**Skýrsla Efnahags- og félagsmálaráðsins (ECOSOC); Ávarp fastafulltrúa í allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 30. október 2007**

I would like to begin by thanking my dear friend and colleague Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis, the President of the Economic and Social Council, for introducing the 2007 report of the ECOSOC, which provides a very good overview of the work of the Council. I would also, on a personal note, like to thank him for the close cooperation in the ECOSOC Bureau during the last two years.

I would first like to say a few words on this year's substantive session of the ECOSOC.

The themes for the Annual Ministerial Review and the thematic discussion of the high-level segment this year were well chosen for this first session of the reformed ECOSOC. Both themes focused on the eradication of poverty, which is certainly at the heart of the global partnership for development. I am particularly pleased with how successful it was to make the link between sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty in the two themes.

I would like to draw your special attention to the importance of promoting gender equality in our efforts to eradicate poverty. By empowering women and ensuring equal opportunity, countries can achieve great gains. There is, however, a long way to go. Women are still much more likely than men to be poor, malnourished and illiterate. They usually have less access than men to employment and they are far less likely than men to be politically active. Women's empowerment should be at the center of any development strategy and ensuring gender equality is vital for pro-poor sustained economic growth and eradication of poverty.

I will not elaborate on the other segments of the Council. I would, however, like to highlight only the decisions dealing with the Ad-hoc Advisory Groups on countries emerging from conflict where we have once again established the primary importance of ECOSOC in the area of long-term sustainable development in post-conflict situations. Further continuation of the groups on Haiti and Guinea Bissau is an indication of this importance.

We can be fairly satisfied with the overall outcome of this year's substantive session, which marked a milestone in the life of ECOSOC by making the Annual Ministerial Review a success as well as by launching the biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).

I would now like to turn to the future role of ECOSOC, which is facing new challenges with its new functions.

ECOSOC will hold its first substantive session of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) next year. The universal and political legitimacy of the forum, involving all Member States of the United Nations and a broad range of stakeholders engaged in development cooperation, makes it an ideal forum for providing global oversight of aid commitments and aid quality. The findings and recommendations of the 2008 DCF should also become a reference point for the discussions taking place in next year's Monterrey Follow-up Conference in Doha as well as the Accra High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. For the DCF to add value to these important intergovernmental processes, it is imperative that the analytical preparations and the consultative process are focused. It is now more important than ever that we avoid overlap and duplication of work.

Another challenge for ECOSOC is the outcome of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence. Co-ordination remains central to ECOSOC functions and I am sure that the outcome of the follow-up to the panel's report will strengthen the work of ECOSOC in that area.

As I have had the honour to serve as a Vice-President of the Council for two years, the ECOSOC has become closer to my heart than before. I am, therefore, proud of this year's

session of a reformed and stronger ECOSOC. We should however not become complacent. Reform is not over, far from it. It is in our hands to make sure that the Development Cooperation Forum will become a real forum for development cooperation. A successful ECOSOC meeting here in New York next year will be critical, as well as inspirational, for a stronger ECOSOC in the future

**Ástandið í Afganistan og áhrif þess á heimsfrið og öryggi; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna við almenna umræðu um Afganistan, 5. nóvember 2007**

Iceland, as a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), but not of the European Union (EU), aligned itself with the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the EU. I would, in addition, like to make a few remarks.

Allow me first of all to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the current situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, contained in document (A/62/345). As in previous years, Iceland is a traditional co-sponsor of the draft resolution on the situation in Afghanistan. I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to Germany for preparing and facilitating the draft resolution.

The report of the Secretary General clearly indicates that Afghanistan has made significant progress towards political, economical and social development since the fall of the Taliban. An important case in point is the immense growth in school education of the children of Afghanistan, including the girls. The report however clearly identifies the serious and complex challenges and threats that Afghanistan still faces and underscores the need for a comprehensive approach. Much more remains to be done as regards institution building, strengthening the rule of law and the practice of good governance. "Afghan ownership is a key issue in this regard", as my German Colleague stated earlier. In this respect the UN is key to coordination of the international community and I would like to state our gratitude to and admiration of the way in which UNAMA under the leadership of Tom Koenigs is working in Afghanistan, often in very difficult and dangerous environments.

The security situation in Afghanistan remains a cause for concern and continues to undermine reconstruction and confidence building efforts. The work of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by NATO is crucial in this context. The increasing role and effectiveness of the Afghan National Army (ANA), the Afghan National Security Forces and the Afghan National Police (ANP), is also a vital element in uprooting insurgency and ensuring long term security in cooperation with the ISAF. We welcome conclusions of the Secretary General's report on the need for an effective, integrated civilian-military strategy and security plan for Afghanistan.

Iceland strongly condemns attacks against civilians and international staff that are intended to undermine the democratic process. The increase in violence and Taliban-led insurgency has grave implications for the human rights and humanitarian situation. We note with the greatest of concerns that there has been an overall increase in the reporting of violence against women across the country.

Iceland remains concerned about the continued increase in opium production and poppy growing which reached record levels this year according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Opium production and narcotics trafficking undermines reconstruction and nationbuilding in Afghanistan. We must increase our efforts, including through regional cooperation, to combat this evil at all levels - drug traffickers must be brought to justice. Here we would emphasize the vital role of the UNODC. The Government of Afghanistan also needs to take firm measures to tackle corruption and weak governance which are a serious obstacle to economic and social development. The draft resolution in front of us indeed expresses deep concern about these developments.

## Fastanefnd Íslands hjá SP í New York

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Iceland strongly supports the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which has an important supporting role to play in confidence building and promoting respect for human rights.

Iceland is firmly committed to making its contribution to the peacebuilding efforts in Afghanistan. In 2004 Iceland had the leading role in operating Kabul International Airport, by providing the Commander of the airport base, and has ever since provided technical and support staff to facilitate the operation.

Iceland now deploys half of its personnel working in international peacekeeping operations, to the mission in Afghanistan (15 persons) and is currently looking at further options in reconstruction and support to infrastructure in the country.

The international community must stand united in reconstruction and the strengthening of democracy in Afghanistan. Achieving our goals in Afghanistan depends on long term political commitment by all stakeholders, the Government of Afghanistan and the international community. Increased regional cooperation and strong commitment from the neighbouring countries is also of the utmost importance. The United Nations has a key role to play in these efforts. Iceland remains firmly committed to supporting the United Nations and other international partners in building a secure and democratic Afghanistan.

### **Landahópar í sérstökum aðstæðum; Ávarp varafastafulltrúa í 2. nefnd allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna um landahópa í sérstökum aðstæðum, 5. nóvember 2007**

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Iceland's full commitment to the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, which is a crucial element in the global strategy to improve the situation of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). We are fully committed to reaching the UN target of 0.15% to 0.2% of Gross National Income for official development assistance to the LDCs.

In the progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action, we see some positive signs and an increase in the number of LDCs that have met, or are close to meet, the target of annual growth rate of 7 per cent. Many LDC's are still short of the target and extreme poverty is still a serious problem in LDCs. Much more needs to be done and the need for a substantial international effort in the fight against poverty, is still as urgent as ever.

In this context we welcome the new advocacy strategy, which is an excellent instrument to raise awareness of the objective, goals and commitments of the Programme of Action, as well as to facilitate effective and timely implementation of the programme.

Iceland is a supporter and financier of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and welcomes and supports the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).

The focus of Iceland's development policy is on least developed countries and the bulk of our bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) has gone to LDCs. Furthermore, the core of Iceland's multilateral development activities has been support for the International Development Agency (IDA), which directs its efforts principally to the assistance of LDCs. Iceland will continue to maintain its policy of channeling the largest share of its development cooperation to the LDCs.

Food security has been an important aspect of our development cooperation. Fish is one of the principal sources of protein for people in many of the LDCs. Iceland's bilateral fisheries projects have therefore contributed to the improvement of food security and reduction of malnutrition. We have also increased our emphasis on food security through increased support for the UN World Food Programme. The campaign against hunger will continue to be an important aspect of Iceland's development cooperation.

Education has been a core aspect of our development cooperation. Projects in this area have been at various levels, ranging from primary and adult education, training and capacity building of fisherfolk in the partner countries and support to higher education. Iceland hosts two of the United Nations University training programmes, the geothermal and fisheries training programmes, where experts in the respective fields have been trained in relevant technology. Recognizing the close link between poverty and illiteracy; basic education and adult literacy programmes will continue to be a significant part of our bilateral development cooperation.

The fact that three out of the eight Millennium Development Goals focus on health, signifies the pressing need for assistance in this area. Poor health and lack of access to health facilities contributes to slow economic and social growth and sustained poverty. For that reason we have launched efforts to support the health sector in two of our partner countries; Malawi and Mozambique. The Government of Iceland has supported the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and we will continue to support multilateral efforts in this area.

Women play a fundamental role in the development of the LDC's, and experience has shown that support for the education, health and economic activities of women has a multiplier effect for their communities. For this reason we have increasingly directed our development cooperation at gender specific projects in the LDC's. This has been done through our bilateral programmes in the partner countries and through support to the work of UNFPA and UNIFEM.

Sustainable use of renewable energy resources is an important element for development, in particular for the LDCs, where high oil prices are putting excess burden on communities. Iceland is focusing on energy for development, both via the UNU geothermal training programme as well as through the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) within the World Bank.

I will now turn to the Landlocked Developing Countries. We are fully committed to the implementation of the five priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action of 2003. We welcome the efforts made by the Secretary General to ensure effective preparation for the midterm review of the Programme next year. We recognize that the specific situations of these countries, with the lack of access to the sea and grate distances from world markets, contribute to increased poverty. Aid for trade, which Iceland supports, is an important initiative that can reduce the adverse effect of the LLDC's geographic location and should be a part of a broader development policy for the LLDC's.

We will continue to advocate increased liberalization of international trade. The setback of the Doha Development Round could slow down the integration of the groups of countries in special situations into the world economy. A breakdown of the negotiations would have negative consequences for the developing countries, especially the LDC's and the LLDC's.

I would like to conclude by highlighting the issue of Climate Change, which is a major concern to all of us. On our path towards a comprehensive post-2012 global regime on climate change, it is important that we pay attention to the special needs of the most vulnerable. The poorest in developing countries tend to be hardest hit, those who are least responsible for causing climate change.

**Konur og þróun; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í 2. nefnd allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 6. nóvember 2007**

Of the three important and inter-related issues under the item on our agenda today, namely eradication of poverty and other development issues much has already been said today. I will, however, make a few comments on Item 58(b), Women in development.

I would like to begin by thanking the Secretary General for his thorough report on the progress made in the implementation of GA resolution 60/210 on women in

development, including the increased participation in government decision-making bodies, and its impact on the eradication of poverty.

Advancement of Women in general, is of critical importance, not only as a fundamental human rights issue - and as such an important end in itself - but also as a precondition for successful achievements of all the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore of concern that women are underrepresented in political and economic decision making. Women and men need to be equally represented and listened to everywhere.

Women play a central role in economic and social development. We know that there are strong links between women's empowerment and poverty reduction. The advancement of women and women's rights must be central in all development efforts and in our global fight against poverty. The participation of women in decision-making will not increase without overall empowerment of women. We know now that support for the education, health and economic activities of women has a multiplier effect for their communities. For this reason, Iceland's development co-operation has increasingly been directed at the affairs and interests of women in the developing countries with the goal of enhancing their role in society.

UNIFEM has been a key partner in this regard, and therefore, the Government of Iceland decided to double its current contribution to the Fund. This marks a thirty fold increase in Iceland's contributions to UNIFEM since 2003, an increase which will bring Iceland amongst the top donors, as we have stated in other contexts.

In its bilateral work, the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) has supported equal rights, for example through its support for the evolution of the Ministry of Women's affairs in Mozambique and in various social projects, in several countries, which are specifically intended for women. Women's affairs will continue to be a key feature of our development co-operation. An effort will be made to link our emphasis on equal rights with our participation in bilateral co-operation, multilateral co-operation and post-conflict reconstruction.

One way to strengthen the participation of women in decision making is to support the training and education of women in developing countries.

With this goal in mind, the ICEIDA focuses on adult literacy in its bilateral co-operation in Africa, and is in that way supporting the poorest of the poor, illiterate women and men. We have also placed a special emphasis on education for girls, which will help them to build skills for participation in decision-making and income-generating activities in general.

Another field in which ICEIDA aims to improve the position of women is through cooperation in the field of basic health care, focusing on reproductive health.

To name one example of ICEIDA's support in this field, a maternal house will be opened in Engela, Namibia early next year intended for pregnant women from rural areas who do not have direct access to health services. The construction of the maternal house is funded by ICEIDA which has provided for the construction and rebuilding of five such houses in Nicaragua as well. The maternal houses provide shelter for the women during the last days or weeks of their pregnancy and they return to the Maternal House after the delivery while they are recovering. The service of the Maternal House is free of charge.

In the course of its work within international organizations, Iceland has placed great emphasis on the issue of women in war-torn societies. Women and children are not only the principal victims of conflict. Women and girls are also particularly vulnerable, as we all know, to various forms of abuse where conflicts rage and law and order are ignored.

In post-conflict reconstruction women play a key role, as in development activities in general. UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security of 2000 lays the foundation for further focus by the international community on the affairs of women in war zones and post-conflict territories. Iceland has emphasized the role of women in its peacebuilding operations.

Gender issues should not be put in a separate box. They need to be catered for throughout the system and focused on by men as well as women.

In accordance with existing policies in international development co-operation, Iceland is in the process of mainstreaming gender equality into all its development activities. Account will be taken of the needs and roles of both women and men during the implementation of the Icelandic Development Co-operation Policy to ensure equal opportunity for women and men to influence, participate in and benefit from it.

**Umraður um Palestínuflóttamannanefndina; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í 4. nefnd allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 8. nóvember 2007**

This is the first time Iceland takes the floor in the Fourth Committee during the 62nd session. Let me therefore begin by congratulating you and other members of the Bureau, on your election. At the same time I reassure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Mrs. Karen Koning Abu Zayd, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, for a comprehensive and enlightening Annual Report which provides a solid basis for our discussions. I would also like to thank her for her statement which gives a valuable insight into the situation in the area from somebody who is based in Gaza, and is in close contact on a daily basis with people on the ground.

The 2006 Annual Report shows that despite times of exceptional hardship and suffering in the region, UNRWA has been able to deliver substantial results.

On the humanitarian front, UNRWA played a central role in easing the suffering of both refugees and Lebanese civilians during its emergency operations in Lebanon and on the Gaza Strip. Under often life-threatening conditions, UNRWA's staff showed relentless dedication to the Agency's responsibilities, for which the international community, including Iceland, is truly grateful.

UNRWA has also worked determinedly towards improving the human development of the 4.5 million refugees served by the Agency. Be it in the field of education, health, relief and social services or microfinance, UNRWA is the backbone of the daily existence for many Palestine refugees, providing them with the services and tools to improve their lives.

It is for these reasons that the Government of Iceland regards UNRWA as its main partner in Iceland's support to Palestine refugees.

Iceland welcomes the three year organizational development reform that is being undertaken by UNRWA, and believes that the results of these efforts will translate into a more agile and strategic Agency, better equipped to fulfil its mandate.

However, it is clear that for these reforms to be successful, the low number of international staff allocated to UNRWA has to be addressed. The Agency's funding from the UN regular budget therefore needs to be reviewed, and Iceland is willing to support such efforts during this year's program budget negotiations. Moreover, Iceland intends to offer secondment as a support to UNRWA.

It is disturbing that restrictions on movement and access in the occupied territories (oPt) are seriously affecting the Agency's work, resulting in daily difficulties in program implementation and in responding to humanitarian needs. Other restrictions have resulted in considerable direct costs for UNRWA - costs that an already under-funded agency cannot afford to bear. We are furthermore informed by the Agency that it is facing, and has been given to understand it will continue to face, unprecedented restrictions in access to communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It should be remembered that UNRWA is an arm of the UN with a vital role and that its access should be facilitated, not hindered.

## Fastanefnd Íslands hjá SP í New York

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I would like to conclude by expressing Iceland's deep concern about the serious humanitarian situation in Gaza where the vast majority is currently dependant on food assistance from UNRWA and other international organizations. We would like to call upon the Israeli authorities to ease access in and out of Gaza for both humanitarian reasons and for commercial flows. Furthermore, it needs to be ensured that necessary security measures do not entail collective punishment which cannot be justified under any circumstances.

The opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza is essential to ensure the viability of the Palestinian economy and improve the living conditions of the inhabitants, most of whom are Palestine refugees. Pessimism is gaining ground, and children and young people, the majority of Gazans, are increasingly losing faith in the future. Unfortunately, and as we all know, history has repeatedly shown that despair breeds divisions and extremism, often further aggravating the already serious social conditions.

We were therefore glad to hear from Mrs. Abu Zed earlier this afternoon that a meeting between the director of UNRWA in Gaza and Israeli authorities on the easing of access in and out of Gaza took place this morning. We hope that this is a sign of much needed improvements.

Under the current circumstances in Gaza UNRWA's presence and provision of services is more crucial than ever. In this regard the Agency should be commended for the initiatives on the Schools of Excellence and the Summer Games, two initiatives which benefit the large population of children in Gaza, despite the extremely difficult operational environment in which these initiatives take place. It demonstrates how much determination there is within the Agency, as well as among the refugee population, not to give in to circumstances which are out of their control.

Recently there have been signs for hope and optimism in the region. Faced with this window of opportunity, UNRWA is ever more important, not least as an element of stability. It is therefore essential that UNRWA has the necessary financial resources to respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable, and particularly to those of young Palestinians.

Iceland acknowledges this importance, and has over the past years been steadily strengthening its support to the Agency. Moreover, in recognition of the excellent work of UNRWA, I'm pleased to announce that the Government of Iceland has decided to increase Iceland's contribution to 300.000 USD for 2008 and to 500.000 USD for 2009.

### **Endurskoðun skipunar og starfshátta öryggisráðsins; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna í umræðu um skýrslu öryggisráðsins um endurskoðun skipunar og starfshátta öryggisráðsins, 13. nóvember 2007**

I would like to start by thanking my colleague from Indonesia, the President of the Security Council for the month of November, for presenting the Report of the Security Council for the period 1 August 2006 - 31 July 2007 to the General Assembly. It is clear from the Report that the serious issues before the Security Council are increasing both in numbers and scope and encompass all major regions as well as many cross-cutting thematic issues.

Let me, however, limit my brief statement to the other agenda item, namely the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

Once again, Mr. President, we are having this debate early in a new General Assembly. In fact, we have been speaking on this issue for nearly a decade and a half in the OEWG. The impasse on this fundamentally important issue does not reflect well on the United Nations. And it is all the more lamentable as no-one disagrees with the 2005 High Level Summit when it acknowledged that early reform of the Security Council was an, and I quote: "Essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations - in order to



make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions.”

In an interview you gave to BBC recently you stated, and I quote: "Reform makes sense only if you achieve by that more transparency, more efficiency, and you reflect what is today's world situation", end of quote. We could not agree with you more. The stakes are high and an equitable resolution on the reform questions of the Council could greatly add to comprehensive security. Our goals of reform of the Security Council are therefore far too important to abandon. We must continue to seek solutions with open minds and renewed vigor.

Throughout the years Iceland has advocated a more representative and thus a more legitimate Council through expansion in membership, mirroring the changes that have taken place in the overall membership of the United Nations and also through advocating more transparency and inclusiveness in the work of the Security Council. On this basis Iceland was one of the cosponsors in July 2005 of the resolution A/59/L.64, better known as the G - 4 proposal, which as we all know never came to a vote. In a nutshell Iceland's position has been the following: Increase in both the permanent and the two year elected members of the Security Council, a Council totalling about 25 countries, working methods reform based on the suggestions in the G - 4 and/or the so-called S - 5 draft resolutions as well as increased representation of developing countries. Since the tabling of the G - 4 proposal we have had in depth discussions on various models and possible compromises.

The valuable work on these issues during the 61 st Session of the GA, the extensive efforts of the "5 plus 2" Permanent Representatives and inputs from all sides did frankly not produce much more formal results than the decision to continue the consideration of the issues during the present GA. However, we have the feeling that everyone now realizes more fully the need to show increased flexibility.

Ideas have been put forward, not ideal perhaps, but maybe the best possible substantial solutions at this time, as acknowledged by the 5 facilitators. These ideas need to be developed further. We are looking for new avenues, ways which have to encompass enlargement and working methods.

In the latest report of the OEWG from last September we all agreed to continue our work on Security Council Reform, including through intergovernmental negotiations during this session of the GA. We welcome this call.

If fundamental previous positions are to be changed during the forthcoming negotiations, and the idea of a defined period of transitional arrangements is to be adopted, an agreement has to be reached on a mandatory review after a specified number of years. If such compromises are to be negotiated it must be done without prejudice to original positions.

Regardless of how our negotiations will develop in the weeks and months ahead they must be marked by transparency that gives all member states equal opportunities to participate. Or as Ambassador Heller of Mexico said this morning, to have a spirit of collaboration of all states.

Finally, Mr. President. We would like to congratulate the newly elected non-permanent members of the Security Council. Iceland, as a first time candidate, hopes to join them on the Council for their second year there.

**Mannúðarmál og neyðaraðstoð; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á fundi allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 19. nóvember 2007**

First I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the reports provided for this important session of the General Assembly. On behalf of the Government of Iceland, I would like to offer our sincerest condolences to the countries that have experienced

humanitarian emergencies. At this very moment our thoughts are with the people of Bangladesh. I express our deepest sympathy to and solidarity with the families of the victims and all those affected.

The international community learned important lessons in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean 2004. But we also learned that reform of the humanitarian response was urgently needed. We learned that available funds, impact evaluation, needs assessment and effective coordination of actions of the many important actors in humanitarian assistance, are crucial elements for best result. We welcome the improvements that have already been made in humanitarian response, in which the United Nations have a leadership role, and we emphasize the need to continue on that path. We thank the Secretary-General and the Joint Inspection Unit for the recommendations made for reform, which provides a good basis for our work. I wish to underline that gender mainstreaming should be considered as a cross-cutting issue from the earliest stages of any reform.

The governments have an important role to play in ensuring availability of funds. We all know that extensive delays in getting humanitarian assistance to those in need can prove to be disastrous. For that reason, predictable, fast and sound funding in the wake of humanitarian disasters is of essence. The establishment of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has been very successful. It can provide a reliable source of finance that helps agencies on the ground to deal with problems quickly. It is likely that the need for funds will increase and governments have to intensify their efforts. We look forward to the pledging conference in December.

Non-governmental organisations play a significant part in humanitarian and development work. The Government of Iceland has therefore decided to double the contributions in 2008 allocated to humanitarian and relief operations through Icelandic NGOs as well as the Red Cross. The private sector is also an important player in building up economic growth and we plan to explore further innovative ways of working with the private sector in developing countries. The Government's interests are to harness the energy and the efficiency of the NGOs and the private sector, strengthening the pioneering work that they are doing and to raise public awareness on the situation in the poorest parts of the World.

I would like to turn briefly to the assistance to the Palestinian People. I thank the Secretary General for his report on the issue, which provides a good overview of the situation, and underlines the need for continued and indeed increased assistance. The report highlights the role of women. We all know that there are strong links between women's empowerment and poverty reduction in general as has been said so often. In the case of humanitarian crisis, women and children are not only the principal victims, but women and girls are also particularly vulnerable, to various forms of abuse. Therefore, we welcome the intensified emphasis in the report on protection of women, children and other vulnerable groups in the crisis.

In our debates within this institution in general, we should be careful to not lose sight of the purpose of our work; What are the reasons behind the effort? As the vice-president of ECOSOC, responsible for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment this year, I have been fortunate to have an opportunity to work closely with very efficient experts on the issue, both representatives from Member States as well as from OCHA and other humanitarian actors. I was impressed to learn how much they focus on the 'the why?', but less on 'the how?', for example which version of a text to use. They realize that we are here to help people in need, that we are here to save lives and help people to survive disasters; that the means should not become the end. If we all continue to do our work in this positive spirit, we will make a difference.

**Ástandið í Mið-Austurlöndum; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á fundi allsherjarþings Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 30. nóvember 2007**

First of all allow me to thank the Secretary General for his report, contained in document A/62/327 on the situation in the Middle East.

Iceland fully supports the ongoing bilateral talks between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas and welcomes the revitalization of the Middle East Peace Process following the international meeting which took place in Annapolis. We strongly urge the parties to use this new momentum to move the peace process forward with the aim to reach a comprehensive peace settlement within the time frame established. The Quartet and members of the international community must renew their efforts to actively assist and support the parties in their endeavours.

While we take due note of these positive developments, we underline that they must be matched by concrete progress and confidence building on the ground.

Iceland is deeply concerned about the continued violence in the Middle East which has grave implications for the humanitarian situation and continues to undermine confidence building efforts, be it in Lebanon, Iraq or Palestine. The vicious cycle of violence in Palestine on both sides must be broken - for the sake of the Peace Process and the security of the two populations, whether they live in Gaza, Nablus or Sdrot.

Iceland remains deeply concerned at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the vast majority is currently dependent on food assistance from UNRWA and other international organizations. We call upon the Israeli authorities to ease access in and out of Gaza for both humanitarian reasons and for commercial flows. The opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza is essential to ensure the viability of the Palestinian economy and improve the living conditions of the inhabitants. With the renewal of the peace process ways should be sought to bring about reconciliation in order to bring Gaza back into the picture and secure the reunification of Palestinian territory which is necessary for a sustainable peace.

Furthermore, it needs to be ensured that necessary security measures do not entail collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law.

Settlements in East Jerusalem and in the West Bank are contrary to international humanitarian law and we call upon Israel to cease all settlement activities, dismantle all the so called illegal outposts and comply otherwise with its obligations under international law, including humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

This applies also to the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this context, we would like to recall the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of the wall.

Progress in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is essential in achieving lasting stability and peace in the Middle East. Final status issues must be on the agenda in the upcoming negotiations. I would encourage political leaders to ensure that the will for peace among a great many people on both sides is reflected in the political process. This requires political courage and true leadership. It requires restraint when restraint is most difficult. It requires a determination to outflank the spoilers on both sides, who would wish to sacrifice the real prospects of a peaceful and fulfilling life for millions to a distant mirage of some unattainable utopia.

The preparedness of the international community to support the parties, including through timely presentation of bridging proposals is essential. In this regard I would like to call attention to Security Council Resolution 1325 and the importance of equal participation of women in peace processes for achieving, maintaining and promoting sustainable peace. The international community needs to find ways to involve women in the Peace Process in a consistent and structured way. There already exists a forum of influential

women from both sides, with international figures, the International Women's Commission for Just and Sustainable Israeli Palestinian Peace (IWC). We would like to use this opportunity to urge the parties as well as the Quartet to consider how the peace process can benefit from influential and effective groups like the IWC

**Hafið og hafréttarmál; Ávarp fastafulltrúa í allsherjarþingi Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 10. desember 2006**

I would like at the outset to thank the Secretariat, in particular the able staff of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), headed by the new Director, Mr. Václav Mikulka, for its comprehensive reports on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries. I would also like to acknowledge the professional manner in which the two coordinators, Ambassador Henrique Rodrigues Valle of Brazil and Ms. Holly R. Koehler of the United States, conducted the informal consultations on the draft resolutions before us, on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries. In fact, all the participants deserve credit for their good spirit and flexibility leading to an unusually prompt conclusion of the consultations this year.

The Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the legal framework for all our deliberations on the oceans and the law of the sea. Iceland welcomes recent ratifications of the Convention by Moldova, Morocco and Lesotho, bringing the total number of States Parties to 155, and signals of further ratifications in the near future. By ratifying and implementing the Convention, one of the greatest achievements in the history of the United Nations, the international community sustains and promotes a number of its most cherished goals. Every effort must be made to utilize existing instruments to the fullest before other options, including possible new implementation agreements under the Convention, are seriously considered.

The three institutions established under the Law of the Sea Convention are functioning well. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf is giving current consideration to a number of submissions that have been made regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, and a number of coastal States, including Iceland, have advised of their intention to make submissions in the near future.

As the time limit for making submissions approaches, the workload of the Commission is anticipated to increase considerably due to an increasing number of submissions, placing additional demands on its members and on DOALOS. Iceland supports the decision of the seventeenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to continue to address, as a matter of priority, issues related to the workload of the Commission, including funding for its members attending the sessions of the Commission and the meetings of the subcommissions. We welcome, in particular, the endorsement of the General Assembly, in paragraph 46 of the draft oceans and the law of the sea resolution, of the request by the Meeting of States Parties to the Secretary-General to take timely measures, before the twenty-first session of the Commission in March, to strengthen the capacity of DOALOS, serving as the secretariat of the Commission, in order to ensure enhanced support and assistance to the Commission and the subcommissions. In this context, we note with concern the information provided by DOALOS regarding the current level of staffing as well as inadequate hardware and software available to it which are required to support the Commission in the fulfilment of its functions.

Furthermore, we encourage States to make additional contributions to two voluntary trust funds in this field, i.e. the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission by developing States, and the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission.

Marine genetic resources are receiving more and more attention by the international community and they were the focus topic of the eighth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process (UNICPOLOS) last June. The panel discussions of that meeting were very informative and States made good progress in developing consensual elements relating to this complex issue, although a final agreement was not reached.

In this light we note with satisfaction the consensual elements relating to marine genetic resources contained in paragraphs 132–136 of the draft oceans and the law of the sea resolution which are drawn from the eighth meeting of UNICPOLOS. These paragraphs, as well as the report of the UNICPOLOS meeting, will provide a useful basis for further consideration of this issue at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction next spring.

We remain to be convinced of the need for a new international legal regime for marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In our view, the Law of the Sea Convention provides a sufficient legal framework in this respect and offers at the same time a great amount of flexibility. Iceland is willing to engage in a constructive debate for the purpose of finding fair and equitable practical solutions regarding the exploitation of marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction within the existing legal framework.

The UN Fish Stocks Agreement is of paramount importance, as it strengthens considerably the framework for conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks by regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). The provisions of the Agreement not only strengthen in many ways the relevant provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention but also represent important development of international law in this area.

The effectiveness of the Agreement depends on its wide ratification and implementation. The Review Conference held last year provided an important momentum and we welcome the recent ratifications of the Agreement by Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Romania, bringing the number of States Parties to 67. We look forward to the seventh round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement, which has among its objectives to promote a wider participation in the Agreement, and note with satisfaction that many other States have informed of their intention to ratify it in the near future.

Iceland has emphasized the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the field of fisheries. As reflected in the draft sustainable fisheries resolution before us, the meeting of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in Rome last March was very productive and set the ground for future work on many important issues. These include issues that the General Assembly has highlighted in recent years such as the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems from destructive fishing practices, and the combatting of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

With respect to the former issue, COFI decided, as requested in paragraph 89 of General Assembly resolution 61/105 on sustainable fisheries, to develop, through expert and technical consultations, technical guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas. The guidelines will include standards and criteria for identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction and the impacts of fishing on such ecosystems. These standards and criteria will facilitate the adoption and implementation of conservation and management measures by States and RFMOs pursuant to paragraphs 83 and 86 of resolution 61/105. Iceland has made a financial contribution to this important work of the FAO, we note that the expert consultation has already taken place and encourage all relevant States to participate in the intergovernmental technical consultation which will be held in Rome in February.

The COFI meeting also took important decisions related to combatting IUU fishing. Firstly, it initiated a process to develop, through expert and technical consultations, a

legally binding instrument on minimum standards for port State measures, as recommended in resolution 61/105. The expert consultation has already taken place and we encourage all relevant States to participate in the intergovernmental technical consultation which will be held in Rome in June. Secondly, the meeting requested the FAO to consider the possibility, subject to the availability of funds, of an expert consultation to develop criteria for assessing the performance of flag States, as well as to examine possible actions against vessels flying the flags of States not meeting such criteria. In our view, this work is particularly relevant in strengthening and developing the legal basis for meaningful and effective measures against vessels engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas, where the flag State has failed to fulfil its obligations and take action. We are, in cooperation with other interested States, considering supporting this important initiative, including through preparatory work and funding, and note in this regard with satisfaction paragraph 41 of the draft sustainable fisheries resolution.

There is growing concern over the adverse effects of global warming on the marine environment and marine biodiversity. Among other things, changing temperature and currents may affect the abundance of fish stocks in various ways and there are indications that the migrating patterns of some important fish stocks may be changing. In this context, we draw attention to paragraph 82 of the draft oceans and the law of the sea resolution which encourages States, individually or in collaboration with relevant international organizations and bodies, to enhance their scientific activity to better understand the effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity and develop ways and means of adaptation. We furthermore draw attention to paragraph 83 of the draft resolution which calls upon States to enhance their efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, in accordance with the principles contained in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to reduce and tackle projected adverse effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity.

The impacts of climate change are hardly as clearly detectable in any place of our planet as in the Arctic where huge quantities of sea ice and glaciers are already retreating. The sea ice in this area is retreating much more swiftly than scientists predicted and now there is even talk that the ice will disappear altogether. The retreat of ice and the warming of the seas will, together with advances in technology, offer new opportunities for navigation and exploitation of natural resources in the Arctic region. However, we must bear in mind that this region contains uncontaminated ecosystems with unique biological diversity, the conservation of which is vital. Care must be taken that the opening of new shipping routes and exploitation of natural resources will not endanger these sensitive ecosystems and to minimize detrimental effects on the marine environment.

Iceland places emphasis on good and close cooperation between States having an interest in the opening of shipping routes across the Arctic Ocean and the exploitation of natural resources in the region in the near future, based on rules of international law pertaining thereto, in particular the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

**Endurbætur á öryggisráði Sameinuðu þjóðanna; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands, fyrir hönd Norðurlanda, á fundi allsherjarþingsins sem tileinkaður var umræðu um endurbætur á öryggisráði Sameinuðu þjóðanna,, 14. desember 2007.**

Thank you for convening this important meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group and let me, like others before me congratulate the three vice-chairs of your Taskforce, our colleagues and friends from Bangladesh, Chile and Portugal on their appointments.

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of the five Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The Nordic countries see Security Council reform as an essential element of the comprehensive reform of the UN, initiated by our political leaders in 2005. Progress has

been made in other areas of overall UN reform, but Security Council reform has not advanced. In order to strengthen the credibility and legitimacy of the UN system in general, we need to proceed on this part of the reform process as well.

We believe it is important to build on the discussions over the past year on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council. The two reports of your predecessor offer valuable ideas for the way ahead: Now is the time to bring the discussion forward with the aim of reaching a solution. We support you, Mr. President, in your efforts to facilitate this process.

Our objective remains to find solutions that will bolster the legitimacy of the Council and enhance respect for and compliance with its decisions, while at the same time maintaining the Council as an effective forum for decision-making.

As previously stated, we are open to the idea of an enlargement of the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent category.

In order to go forward, we are ready to assess interim solutions that would allow testing various models as long as they contain a clear review-clause.

We strongly believe that the veto power should not be extended and would like to see a veto free culture be promoted in the Council.

Improved representativity of the Council should primarily be obtained by adding additional members, so that it would better represent our world community. Moreover, it is in our view essential that any Security Council reform preserves the possibility of small states – which is the majority of states in this hall – to serve on the Council.

Finally, any reform would be incomplete without reform of the Council's working methods and procedures with a view to making the work of the Council more transparent, inclusive and participatory. For small member states, who inevitably find themselves outside the Council for decades, improving accessibility of the Council's work remains a vital element of reform.

As we enter the process of intergovernmental negotiations, we all need to have an open mind, show flexibility and be ready to discuss new ideas. The Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, will continue to engage actively in a constructive dialogue, and we stand ready to take the next step under your able guidance.

**Starf Sameinuðu þjóðanna á sviði jafnréttismála; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands fyrir hönd Norðurlanda, á fundi allsherjarþings SP um samræmingu aðgerða á sviði þróunar-, umhverfis- og mannúðarmála (System-wide Coherence), 7. febrúar 2008**

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

Let me begin by congratulating both of you, Ambassador of Ireland, and Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania, your appointment as the co-chairs of the System-wide Coherence deliberations during the 62nd General Assembly, and assure you of the Nordic countries' strong support in this important process. Like others this morning, I would also like to thank the Ambassadors of Barbados and Luxembourg for their valuable work during the 61st session of the General Assembly.

As was indicated in the Co-Chairs letter to member states, the purpose of today's meeting is to focus on the current opportunities and challenges, taking a forward looking approach to the way ahead.

We think this is a very constructive approach, and would like to take this opportunity to address an important subject, namely the need to strengthen the United Nation's work in the area of gender.

The Nordic countries view the UN as playing a crucial role in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. We attach great importance to effective gender

mainstreaming in UN's policies and programmes, and strongly support country-owned and demand driven gender-specific programs at the country level.

However, although considerable progress has been made in fulfilling the 2005 World Summit commitment to strengthening the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender, we believe that more needs to be done. In our view, the UN's work on gender is under-funded and frequently characterised by fragmentation and lack of coordination and accountability. Unfortunately, this means that the United Nations is often not sufficiently capable of supporting member states in their efforts to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Nordic countries support the recommendation of the High Level Panel to strengthen UN activities on gender equality. We agree that measures need to be taken to develop a UN system that is more responsive, coherent and accountable at all levels. In doing so, we think that the guiding principle should be that form follows function, and that focus must be on country delivery and results on the ground.

For that reason we think it is important that the next steps in our pursuit to strengthen UN's work on gender is to identify the gaps in delivery at the country level, and based on such an analysis, thoroughly examine the ways with which the UN can best address those gaps.

Let me emphasise, that for the UN to succeed in strengthening its work on gender, a strong dedication and leadership on behalf of senior management is crucial, as well as the Membership's sustained commitment. The importance of gender equality and women's empowerment to reach the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, has been recognized by all, and international commitments have been emphasised, and re-emphasised, on a number of occasion.

We sincerely hope that these commitments on gender will be reflected in the next steps we will take following our discussion here today, and that we will move forward on this important issue during this 62nd General Assembly. We look forward to working with other delegations in ensuring that this will indeed be the case.

**Umferðarslys eru alvarleg ógnun sem stöðja að nútímasamfélögum; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á sérstökum fundi allsherjarþings SP, sem helgaður var umræðu um umferðaröryggi, 31. mars 2008**

At the outset I would like to thank the Secretary General for his report on the implementation of resolution 60/5 on improving global road safety. I would also like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government of the Sultanate of Oman for taking the initiative to bring attention to the important issue of the global road safety crises in the world. You may be assured of our full support, for there are no countries immune from this modern scourge, even islands far away from other countries.

The statistics in the Secretary General's report tell a grim story. Every year nearly 1.2 million people die in traffic accidents and millions more are injured or disabled. Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death globally for those between the ages of 10 and 24. This figure is comparable to death rates from malaria or tuberculosis. At the same time, the solution to the problem involves to a large extent awareness raising and persuading motorists to change their behaviour. In other words road traffic injuries can be prevented.

Unlike many other countries, the large majority of road accident fatalities in Iceland do not occur in cities – indeed, the accident rate in built-up areas has declined significantly over recent years and now statistics show that last year over 90% of road accidents in Iceland occurred in the country side. An issue of concern in Iceland is that actions to reduce the number of severely injured in traffic accidents have failed to show results.



Studies have confirmed other findings that attribute road accidents to a number of key factors: speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, failure to use seat belts and poor infrastructure.

In light of this information, the Icelandic Ministry of Transport, Communications and Municipal affairs, has developed a four year traffic safety plan for the years 2007-2010, adopted by the Icelandic Parliament in 2007, as a part of the general transport policy plan.

The main aim of the plan is to take action against driving under influence of alcohol and/or substances, speeding and not wearing seatbelts, as well as introducing measures to improve road infrastructure along with other specified tasks according to the traffic safety plan. The traffic safety plan places special emphasis on road safety education for all children from preschool age until 18 years of age. The aim of the project is that the children will enjoy comprehensive road safety education which will lay the foundation for responsible traffic behaviour and thereby challenge the notion that road accidents are unavoidable.

Icelandic authorities noted with special interest the announcement of the first UN Global Road Safety Week, 23-29 April 2007, which was dedicated to young road users. It was implemented in an effective manner in Iceland with a variety of programmes throughout the week. Interestingly, figures showed a sharp decline in road traffic accidents during the road safety week compared to the same week the year before, and the same trend followed the weeks after. The success of the UN Global Road Safety Week in Iceland was mainly due to successful collaboration between interested parties, such as the government, the police, NGO's, local authorities and the media.

The UN initiative to organize the UN Global Road Safety Week worldwide underlines the value and significance of international cooperation in the area, especially as regards efforts to be undertaken in the developing countries.

Iceland is proud to be a co-sponsor of the draft resolution (A/62/L.43) on global road safety, introduced earlier today by my friend Ambassador Fuad Al-Hinai. We highly value his proactive and constructive role in bringing this important issue to the attention of the UN.

Road traffic injuries continue to be an important public health and development issue. They threaten to undermine the developmental gains made in many countries and impose a huge economic burden on developing countries. We must therefore intensify our international efforts to raise awareness about global road safety. In this context, Iceland warmly welcomes the offer by the Russian Federation to host and provide the necessary financial support for the First Global High-Level conference on Road Safety to be held in 2009. Such a Conference should complement national and regional efforts to promote road safety and bring together transport, infrastructure and health ministers. It will play an important role in scaling up the political and institutional response to global road safety.

**Endurbætur á stjórnskipulagi Sameinuðu þjóðanna; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands, fyrir hönd Norðurlanda, á sérstökum fundi allsherjarþingsins, 8. apríl 2008**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland.

Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for organizing this important thematic debate on Management Reform, as well as for your introductory statement. I would also like to thank the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his statement.

The Nordic countries agree that the time is right to take stock of the progress made on Management Reform since the 2005 World Summit, and evaluate the challenges ahead. The final aim of our discussions should be, as the theme indicates, to reach a common

understanding on management reform and on the need to enhance our efforts to achieve sustained management reforms in the organization.

In recent decades, the activities undertaken by the UN have increased dramatically, and the multitude of mandated tasks has required expansion in the organization's financial, administrative and human resource requirements. This has challenged the ability of the secretariat to keep up and adapt to different circumstances.

It is our strong belief that management reform is clearly needed for the secretariat to effectively manage these changing realities of the organization. However, it is important that reform is not regarded as a goal in itself, only aimed at identifying savings, but rather as a necessary measure to strengthen UN's capability to comply with its principles, objectives and mandates. In short – reforms will enable the organization to do more, and to do it better.

The principles of accountability and transparency should be at the center of UN's management reform process. Just as Member States need to be transparent and accountable to their own constituencies, UN management needs to be transparent and accountable to Member States, both when it comes to the implementation of mandates and management of resources. This is also essential so as to build the necessary trust among Member States, as well as between Member States, management and staff.

Considerable measures have already been taken to strengthen accountability and transparency within the United Nations, but more needs to be done. We therefore look forward to reviewing the Secretary General's recommendations on an accountability framework and hope that we can do so in the near future.

Let me briefly touch upon the three reform areas suggested as the focus topics for our debate, all of which we agree are crucial for strengthening the work of the United Nations:

First, the way mandates are formulated, implemented and evaluated deserves the membership's attention. We agree that Member States must become better custodians of their mandates. As such, we need to strengthen the mandate cycle and during the formulation process, Member States need to be informed about the full context of the proposed mandates, including financial implications. Moreover, the intergovernmental body from which the mandates originate needs to receive transparent and timely information about their implementation and effectiveness. Likewise, gaps, overlaps and duplications have to be dealt with and reporting requirements need to be reviewed. Another important issue is avoiding a gap between mandates and resources.

Reforming the Planning and Budgetary Process of the UN is a second area of crucial importance. The reform of this process should be guided by adherence to result-based management, of which results-based budgeting is an important component. Also important in this context is reforming the system-wide information and communications technology system.

And last, but not least, Human Resource Management Reform is amongst the most urgently needed reforms at the UN. A number of proposals are on the table, and the Nordic countries were disappointed that despite considerable efforts during the first resumed session of the 5th committee, the committee failed to arrive at a conclusion. We sincerely hope that discussions on this important issue will prove to be more fruitful this coming fall.

The Four Nations Initiative presents a number of interesting recommendations on all of these three focus areas. The recommendations deserve our attention and we believe they could provide an interesting input into the intergovernmental discussions.

While in the short run, some parts of management reforms may prove to be costly in financial terms, the Nordic countries believe that those costs should be weighed against the long term gains the organization stands to achieve upon their implementation. In effect, by investing in reform we secure UN's legitimacy and ensure that the organization

can deliver better results more efficiently. It is hence essential that the membership is ready to finance the reforms needed. At the same time, Member States and the secretariat have to ensure that management reform is accompanied by sound financial management and effective use of existing resources.

We do realize that reform is an ongoing process, not a one-time event. Going forward, it is important that we build on the considerable progress made. We need to engage in constructive dialogue on the various reform processes, ensure implementation of the already agreed reforms, and to be open to new proposals presented to us. In our view, the 5th committee remains the appropriate forum for such consultations and negotiations.

Furthermore, for this process to be successful there needs to be a common understanding of a need for sustained reforms, as well as of the nature of the reforms needed. The Nordic countries hope that our discussions during this thematic debate will strengthen this common understanding, and we are willing to actively engage in this important process.

**Starfsemi Sameinuðu þjóðanna á sviði jafnréttismála; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands, fyrir hönd Norðurlanda, á sérstökum fundi allsherjarþingsins um endurbætur á stjórnskipulagi Sameinuðu þjóðanna, 19. maí 2008**

I have the pleasure to take the floor on behalf of the five Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland.

Thank you both for organizing this open consultation on Gender. Thank you also for your introductory remarks. I would also like to thank the Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Gender issues and the representatives of UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN INSTRAW for their frank and comprehensive statements.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women is a high priority to the Nordic countries, and we thank the co-chairs for giving specific attention to this important matter during our informal consultations. The fundamental purpose of the UN's work in development should be to support positive outcomes and results in programme countries. With that in mind, we particularly appreciate that the focus of today's meeting is on delivering at the country level.

The strong link between gender equality and women's empowerment and the fundamental goals of the UN - development, human rights, peace and security - is undisputed. The UN has a central role in assisting Member States in their efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, thereby helping them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Mainstreaming gender throughout the UN's policies and programmes is therefore of utmost importance. Equally important is the UN's assistance with putting in place nationally-owned and gender-specific programs at the country level.

In recent years there have been good examples of the UN system strengthening its support to national governments' efforts to advance gender equality and empower women, and this is encouraging.

However, too often – and especially at the country level – we hear that the UN has inadequate capacity, coordination and resources to be able to respond effectively to Governments' needs. This has been reported to the General Assembly, ECOSOC and its functional commissions, as well as in many evaluations conducted, most recently in UNDP and UNICEF. Accordingly, considerable challenges remain, and it seems clear that much needs to be done to ensure that UN's assistance in the advancement of gender-equality and women's empowerment reaches its full potential.

An important challenge repeatedly identified is limited cooperation and scant joint programming at the country-level. This insufficient cooperation and coherence increases

transaction costs for Governments, which in order to secure support from multiple entities have to spread thin in their relations with the UN. This can have particularly negative consequences when the aim is to assist in the mainstreaming of gender equality into national poverty reduction strategies.

Another serious challenge is the lack of leadership. There is a risk that by making everyone responsible for gender mainstreaming, nobody can be held accountable for actual implementation at the country level. This lack of accountability may also translate into the UN not being adequately focused on supporting national priorities on gender equality.

A third challenge, which is closely related to lack of coherence and leadership, has been to secure that resource allocation to gender programmes and mainstreaming matches commitments, and that the availability of resources are commensurate with the needs at the country-level. As adequate funding is a necessary precondition for results at the country level, this is a serious challenge.

#### Distinguished Co-Chairs

The combined result of these deficiencies is that the United Nations is not being sufficiently capable of supporting Member States in their national efforts in the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. This is a cause for concern and a strong indication that a unified approach to supporting gender equality is needed. More specifically, we need an approach that builds on the comparative advantage of each part of the system, reduces transaction costs, and increases the quality and level of assistance offered by the UN.

Going forward, we believe it will be important for this intergovernmental process to get input from UN actors working at the country level, as well as from partner countries, on their experience of the UN's work in this field. One idea would be to convene an interactive panel discussion on this issue, focusing on delivery and results on the ground.

Moreover, and as we have indicated before, we encourage the Secretary-General to present the membership with concrete proposals for action in this regard. Such a proposal should elaborate on shortcomings in the UN's capacity in the area of gender, specifically by identifying gaps in programme delivery at the country level, and it should include recommendations on how to address those shortcomings.

One of our common objectives, as Member States must be to strengthen the capacity, accountability and effectiveness of the UN's work in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. We attach great importance to our informal consultations here today, and hope that they will bring us closer to this common objective.

#### **IV. viðauki: Ræður í efnahags- og félagsmálaráði SP (ECOSOC) og undirnefndum**

**Réttindi kvenna; Ávarp Ingibjargar Sólrúnar Gísladóttur, utanríkisráðherra, á 52. fundi kvennanefndar SP, 25. febrúar 2008**

First of all, allow me to express my thanks and appreciation for the excellent preparation of this 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I also thank Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for his opening statement and warmly welcome the introduction of his campaign on combating violence against women.

As foreign minister of Iceland I gave a statement during the general debate of the General Assembly last September, stating that Iceland regards women's empowerment and full participation at all levels as a fundamental issue for the New Millennium. Whether it be in relation to peace and security, health, poverty or climate change, empowerment of women is key to success.

Today's topic is of vital importance for all societies and the global community as a whole. And let me stress before going any further that women's empowerment is the best investment any society can make. We should never speak of spending when it comes to putting government money into gender equality, we should always speak of investing.

To the sceptics and the critics we will always need to present hard facts. I propose this one.

In the beginning of the last century my country – then under foreign rule - was one of the poorest in Europe. We received development aid until 1976. Now, thirty years later Iceland is number one on the UNDP Human Development Index. Research shows that one of the main reasons for this dramatic turn is the liberation of women and their invaluable contribution to our economy, with 80% of women active in the labour market. The path towards women's emancipation has meant a lot of hard work for generations, but the advantage for society as a whole is indisputable.

In a globalised world no country can afford not to make women's empowerment a priority. As the traditional divide between domestic policy and foreign policy evaporates before our eyes – the value of making gender-equality a core issue in foreign policy becomes twofold. Everyone needs to take part in shaping the global agenda in order to progress at home. And everyone needs to learn from the valuable experience of others.

Nationally the Government of Iceland concentrates on strengthening capacities of both state and non-state mechanisms that are involved in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Giving relevant bodies the financial and human resources to follow up on implementation is essential, and therefore the theme of our discussion today is particularly relevant. A new gender equality bill currently under discussion in the Icelandic parliament seeks to strengthen the capacity of the monitoring body responsible for Gender Equality – this should improve implementation of measures for mainstreaming and gender equality, both in the private and public sector.

We are all aware of the risk of backlash and backsliding from our goals. Recent research has indicated that young people's attitude towards gender equality has not improved in my country and in some cases worsened. A new project has, therefore, been developed which focuses on raising gender-awareness through education at pre- and grammar school level. The gender equality bill also stresses the need for engaging men in the discourse on gender equality.

One of the most important steps the government of Iceland has taken on equal opportunities is in my view the legislation on parental leave. During the five years since its implementation, it has been a great success. Up to 90% of fathers have used their

rights, fully or partly. The parental leave is a powerful tool in sharing responsibilities between women and men. It is an expensive system but we regard it as an investment for the future.

Globally, the importance of sufficient financing for gender equality and women's empowerment cannot be overstated. This has been highlighted on a number of occasions, including at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey. However, practice remains weak.

This CSW shows that, while progress has been made, too much remains to be done to be complacent. It is crucial that gender is not only a topic of discussion but a tool for action, and for this to happen, mainstreaming needs to be subjected to renewed efforts and become integrated and indispensable to all forms of programming, i.e. legislation, budgeting, curricula, health strategies etc., etc.

Today in view of the discussion around climate change, one has to be concerned and alert as to the possible if not probable feminization of Climate Change.

There is then a direct connection between women's vulnerability and the vulnerability of the Small Island Development States (SIDSs), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Least Developed Countries (LLDCs) as the latter are most exposed to the impact of climate change.

Iceland's international development co-operation has a clear focus on women's empowerment seeking to support women's participation in societies. In general, gender perspectives are incorporated in all Iceland's bilateral development cooperation programmes and projects. The focus has been on the poorest of the poor, illiterate women with little or no possibility of pursuing their rights. Work in the field of basic health care focusing on reproductive health also contributes to the empowerment of women.

Iceland regards UNIFEM as a key partner in our development cooperation, and we have been actively supporting the Fund's work, both by increasing considerably our core contributions as well as by supporting its regional work in the Caribbean, Afghanistan, The Balkans and various places in Africa. We also support the UNFPA and its major global role in promoting the importance of women's reproductive health and rights. Their campaign to end fistula is to be commended.

The United Nations is a key player in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. The organization should be commended for the progress already made in gender mainstreaming and gender specific programmes. However Iceland believes that more can be done and that the UN system needs to be more responsive, coherent and accountable in this field.

Iceland will this year complete her 4 year terms on the CSW but will stay engaged on the very issue of gender equality and women empowerment in ECOSOC, at the UNGA and at other for such as the Peace Building Commission and through other networks as well as in the Security Council.

Iceland is now campaigning for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the period of 2009-2010 at the elections to take place during the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. This brings me to Security Council resolution 1325 and the need to ensure women's participation at the negotiating table. Iceland regards the equal participation of women in peace processes as fundamental for achieving, maintaining and promoting sustainable peace. Determined to put our own house in order, the Icelandic government is instituting a Plan of Action on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325, which will be published and shared with all of you in the course of the coming weeks.

I have personally raised the importance of women in peace processes in my bilateral meetings since I became foreign minister. In particular, I have supported the work of the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace or IWC and encouraged others to do the same. Women should not be marginal to difficult peace negotiations; they should be brought directly into the process.

Finally Mr. Chairperson, let us be reminded that in just three years time we will celebrate the anniversary of the International Women's Day – launched on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1911 in Copenhagen, Denmark, by Clara Zetkin, leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany.

The need for a global agenda is no less important now than it was in 1911.

The draft conclusion of this 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the CSW contains bold ideas and provides us with a valuable road-map which we all should support and take back home for our governments to apply.

**Ráðstefna á Barbados um þróunarsamstarf Íslands og eyríkja í Karíbahafi; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á 16. fundi nefndar SP um sjálfbæra þróun (CSD), 5. maí 2008**

It is a privilege and an honour to present to you and our distinguished colleagues at the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the conclusions of the High Level Roundtable on International Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Caribbean Small Island Developing States, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on 25-27 March 2008.

The roundtable was co-organized by the Governments of Barbados, the Government of Iceland, and the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs. It was attended by representatives of the Governments of sixteen Small Island Developing States and low-lying coastal states (SIDS) in the Caribbean region, as well as the Government of Iceland, the Caribbean Community Secretariat and other regional intergovernmental and technical institutions, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other organizations of the United Nations system, and representatives of civil society, including business leaders from Iceland and the Caribbean and other invited stakeholders.

I will not enumerate all the conclusions, which are available in a document for this meeting, but it is worth touching briefly on the most salient issues.

Firstly, the meeting supported the need to strengthen the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean.

Secondly, the participants welcomed the Island Growth Initiative presented by the Government of Iceland as a framework mechanism to advance Iceland's commitment to development collaboration with Caribbean SIDS partners in support of implementation of the BPOA and the Mauritius Strategy.

Thirdly, they welcomed initiatives to strengthen private sector cooperation, and reaffirmed the importance of increased investment, economic diversification, new and innovative business partnerships and greater technical and financial resources in the promotion of development cooperation. These innovations and approaches were acknowledged to be invaluable in overcoming common developmental challenges of Caribbean SIDS such as a narrow resource base, small domestic markets, high cost of energy, transportation and communication, vulnerable infrastructure, and vulnerability to natural hazards.

And fourthly, they appreciated the commitment of the Icelandic International Development Agency in exploring possible development cooperation for supporting sustainable development in Caribbean SIDS.

The participants identified some key areas of mutual interest and strengthened cooperation between Iceland and the Caribbean, including:

Investment in, and the development of renewable energy resources, including geothermal.

Sustainable and responsible use of marine resources.

## Fastanefnd Íslands hjá SP í New York

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Capacity building through training, technical assistance, appropriate transfer of technology and financial mobilization, including micro-credit.

The disproportionate impact of accelerated climate change on SIDS. The participants resolved to continue their close collaboration in addressing the issue at all levels.

Advancement of women in society, and commitment to giving greater attention to gender issues as a whole, recognizing that these benefit society as a whole. In this context, further cooperation with UNIFEM was welcomed.

The participants welcomed ongoing collaboration between the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Secretariat (CRFM), and they look forward to the future establishment of a programme of cooperation between the two organizations under an agreed Memorandum of Understanding.

They also welcomed in particular the key role of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the United Nations Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLSS) and the United Nations system support in this cooperative effort.

It was decided to work towards a partnership agreement between the Caribbean SIDS and the Government of Iceland at the earliest opportunity, and requested DESA and UNDP to follow up on implementation.

Finally, I would like to highlight the successful Business and Investment Forum, held on 27 March 2008, the last day of the event. The Forum sought to identify concrete projects for possible cooperation and implementation, particularly in the fields of fisheries management and renewable energy development.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Barbados, and the Department of Social and Economic Affairs for the cooperation in preparing the event and the participants for their valuable cooperation.

### **Tilraunaverkefni Landbúnaðarháskólans á Hvanneyri og Landgræðslu ríkisins þar sem þekkingu íslenskra sérfræðinga í baráttunni við landeyðingu er miðlað til starfsbræðra þeirra í þróunarríkjum; Ávarp fulltrúa umhverfisráðuneytisins 16. fundi nefndar SP um sjálfbæra þróun (CSD), 8. maí 2008**

The first settlers who came to Iceland more than 1100 years ago came to a fertile land. At the time of their arrival it is estimated that 60% of the country was covered with vegetation.

After the settlement, rapid population growth led to intensive use of fragile ecosystems. This led to accelerated erosion magnified by volcanic activity and harsh climate conditions.

To halt the destructive forces in Iceland, a unique legislation was passed in 1907, and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, one of the first institutions of its kind in the world, was established. Since then the combat against soil erosion and land degradation has been an ongoing struggle.

And still - after 100 years - poor land condition and continued soil erosion are considered to be the most severe environmental problem in Iceland.

But there are also numerous success stories about how eroded and desertified land in Iceland has been stabilized and made productive.

Although we are far from having solved all problems of soil erosion and land degradation, wide ranging experience and knowledge has been gained. The Icelandic Government is highly committed to continue the struggle against soil erosion and land degradation.



In our view the knowledge and experience gained in Iceland can be of much relevance to a number of countries in all parts of the world. To share this knowledge the Government of Iceland has initiated The Soil Conservation Training Programme.

The main objective of the programme is to assist developing countries to build their own capacities to mitigate land degradation and combat desertification. Aware of the important role women play in agriculture and land care, gender aspects are an integrated part of the programme.

Recent international activities in Iceland include the Global Forum on Soils, Society and Global Change focusing on the synergistic roles of soil conservation and vegetation restoration in meeting local, regional and global environmental and social challenges.

The Forum gathered over 130 scientists from all over the world. In the conclusions from the Forum the scientists suggested that UN CCD should be developed further to cover all soil protection, as severe land degradation occurs in many areas outside the so called CCD areas. Furthermore they recommended the establishment of independent panel of experts for the UN CCD.

Fertile land is the foundation for water and food security. It is estimated that food production in the world has to be doubled within the next 50 years.

But landcare is a not only a challenge for food security it has clear links to climate, biodiversity, poverty reduction and peace.

Therefore it is of utmost importance to unite efforts and to strengthen the links between international conventions on environmental issues. Iceland stresses especially the link between the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and food security. But it is also important to send a clear message to all the Rio Conventions, urging them to work even more closely together.

**Þróunarsamstarf Íslands og smárra eyríkja; Ávarp varafastafulltrúa á 16. fundi nefndar SP um sjálfbæra þróun (CSD), 12. maí 2008**

In the course of our CSD sessions so far, we have become more aware of the close interlinkages that exist between the different themes that we have chosen for the CSD's work. Most of those interlinkages are widely acknowledged to be of particular significance to small island developing states (SIDS). That is why we decided long time ago to devote one day to the SIDS during each two year cycle of the CSD; one out of twenty days. I welcome the understanding that one day will be devoted to the SIDS exclusively in future cycles of the CSD.

Iceland is committed to do its part in promoting the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius strategy. As an island state, Iceland shares many of the SIDS concerns in the area of sustainable development and there is indeed scope for cooperation in many areas. Since the Mauritius meeting we have contributed more than four million USD, including this year, under the umbrella of the Icelandic SIDS initiative on many different projects, mainly in cooperation with UN agencies and the World Bank. We have been escalating our efforts and it is foreseen that in 2008 we will contribute at least 1.7 million USD to development cooperation with the SIDS.

One good example of successful cooperation is the agreement reached in 2004 between the Government of Iceland and the Commonwealth Secretariat to support the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, to train government fisheries officials from Pacific Island Countries for an initial period of three years, 2005 to 2008. Through this cooperation courses in fisheries statistics, stock assessment and fisheries policy and planning have been held in the Pacific.

The Government of Iceland has decided to take the cooperation with the SIDS further within the so called Island Growth Initiative, which will be a framework mechanism to advance Iceland's commitment to development collaboration with SIDS partners.

The Island Growth Initiative includes the support of projects and programmes, and financial contributions of Iceland's Official Development Assistance. It focuses on the specific needs and priorities of SIDS partners, including the sustainable use of natural resources, clean energy solutions, capacity building, the common fight against climate change, fisheries, ocean governance and supporting the advancement of women in society. More information on the initiative can be found in the room.

We look forward to continuing to exchange views with the SIDS during the current CSD cycle and beyond. As small island states we have much in common and much to gain by working together.

**Þáttur kvenna í landbúnaði og þróun sveita; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á ráðherrafundi nefndar Sameinuðu þjóðanna um sjálfbæra þróun (CSD), 15. maí 2008**

The timing of the themes for this cycle of CSD could not be more appropriate, with the attention and focus of the world's media on the food crisis, mainly affecting the poor. These themes are closely interlinked with other main concerns of today, including climate change. These interlinkages are widely acknowledged to be of particular significance to the Small Island Developing States.

At the outset I would like to emphasize the fact that women play an important role in agriculture and land care. Therefore the empowerment of women is a key to success in solving the problems of hunger and poverty.

Climate change causes desertification, thus decreasing the agricultural output of vast areas. And indeed, land degradation and desertification is itself a contributor to climate change, responsible for about 30% of the greenhouse gas releases.

The carbon atom located in the soil as organic matter is the key to soil fertility and increased food production for the world's ever growing population. A significant part of atmospheric greenhouse gases can be returned to soils and ecosystems, increasing their fertility and biodiversity and promoting food production.

Iceland stresses the link between the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and food security. Climate change and desertification remain inextricably linked. In the last millennium Iceland has lost 50% of its vegetation and 95% of tree cover. With the oldest Soil Conservation Service in the world, established one hundred years ago, Iceland gradually reversed the process and gained experience and knowledge in combating land degradation and desertification.

Based on this knowledge the Government of Iceland has recently decided to fund an international training program in land restoration and soil conservation.

The Land Restoration Training Program is under consideration to become a part of the UNU Training Programs.

The Global Forum on Soils, Society and Global Change was held in Iceland in September 2007, focusing on innovative ways to collectively tackle the interrelated facets of land care and sustainable land management.

According to The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment land degradation is one of the world's greatest environmental challenges, affecting climate and biological diversity, reducing environmental security, destabilizing societies, endangering food security and increasing poverty.

The challenges we are facing pose a formidable obstacle in the way to fulfillment of our commitment to reach the Millennium Development Goals. At this session we have defined problems. At the next session of CSD we have to agree on ways out and not accept anything less than solutions. That is our challenge.

**Samræmdar aðgerðir alþjóðasamfélagsins vegna fæðuskorts; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á sérstökum fundi efnahags- og félagsmálaráðs SP (ECOSOC) um fæðuskortm, 21. maí 2008**

I thank you for organizing this timely event on the food crisis. High food prices are a matter of extreme anxiety in many countries – a matter of life and death. As often in times of crisis, it is women, in particular mothers, who are in the front line in trying to feed families.

A co-coordinated response is needed from the international community and I thank the Secretary General for swiftly establishing a Task Force to create a comprehensive plan for international response.

There is a wide range of measures to be taken and all Governments will need to take appropriate actions. Iceland is ready to do its part. The World Food Programme plays a crucial role in mobilizing resources for the response. The Government of Iceland has responded to the extraordinary appeal by the World Food Programme to meet emergency needs and will continue to follow events.

Gender equality and the active role of women in agriculture is of paramount importance in fighting the food crises. The Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) has cooperated with its partner countries promoting equal rights and active participation of women in the economy, thus strengthening the local food security. We have as well increased our support of the work of UNIFEM.

In the long term we must look for sustainability. Our present food production and distribution systems are creaking under a massive increase in demand and added stress from climate change. We must look for solutions which are sustainable – quick fixes are not available.

Vital to sustainable agriculture is the fight against land degradation, made worse by climate change. Iceland has over 100 years of experience in reclaiming land from erosion. We have concentrated on bringing together expertise from around the world through international conferences and we are aiming at launching a UN University programme on soil technology.

I would like to mention briefly the importance of sustainable fisheries. Ninety-five per cent of those who live from fisheries are in the developing world and a billion people depend on fisheries for their main intake of protein. With increased demand for food, it becomes more important than ever before to make sure that fishing is conducted in a sustainable manner.

The UN University Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland reflects our emphasis on the importance of providing training and sharing technology for sustainable fisheries, which can provide increased food supply for some of the poorest.

Enhancing food security and increasing food production has been at the core of Iceland's bilateral development cooperation, through the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA), which has concentrated on capacity-building projects in southern Africa, Asia, and Central America, mainly in the field of fisheries.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we face a challenge and we have to take responsible and timely actions. Additional measures by my Government are currently under consideration.

**Sjálfbær þróun; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á ráðherrafundi efnahags- og félagsmálaráðs SP (ECOSOC), 1. júlí 2008**

This session of ECOSOC is important in many ways. It is important that we make the first Development Cooperation Forum a success. The timing of the themes makes it especially important. Our efforts for sustainable development are facing new multiple challenges posed by climate change, the food crisis and increased energy costs. The

session is important because we are halfway towards the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore a good time for the new Development Cooperation Forum to take stock of the challenges ahead.

Last year's Annual Ministerial Review emphasized the important role of the Council in reviewing the progress made in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The AMR is a valuable contribution to ECOSOC's work. We welcome the voluntary national presentations at this session and thank the respective Governments for their contribution to our work.

High food prices are a matter of extreme anxiety in many countries – a matter of life and death. As often in times of crisis, it is women, in particular mothers, who bear the brunt. They are in the front line in trying to feed families. In the long term we must look for sustainability. Our present food production and distribution systems are creaking under a massive increase in demand and added stress from climate change. We must look for solutions which are sustainable – quick fixes are not an option.

Increased productivity in food production is crucial. Markets alone can not resolve these crises. We are still at the initial stage of analyzing the problem. The UN's role is important and we commend the Secretary General for his initiative and leadership.

Icelandis ready to do its part. The World Food Programme plays a crucial role in mobilizing responses to food emergencies. The Government of Iceland responded to the extraordinary appeal by the World Food Programme to meet emergency needs and will continue to monitor developments.

Gender equality and the active role of women in agriculture are also significant factors in fighting the food crises. The Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) has cooperated with its partner countries in promoting equal rights and active participation of women in the economy, thus strengthening local food security. We have also increased our support of the work of UNIFEM.

Vital to sustainable agriculture is the fight against land degradation and desertification, made worse by climate change. Iceland has over 100 years of experience in reclaiming land from erosion. We have concentrated on bringing together expertise from around the world through international conferences and we are aiming at launching a UN University programme on soil technology.

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The UN University Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland reflects our emphasis on the importance of providing training and sharing technology for sustainable fisheries, which can provide increased food supply for some of the poorest. The Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) has concentrated on capacity-building projects in the field of fisheries in southern Africa, Asia, and Central America.

Climate change and high energy prices are challenges that also call for urgent action. Many oil-importing developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, suffer the most as their economies are more oil-intensive and less able to get through the financial turmoil created by higher oil-import costs. Transformation of their energy systems is urgent.

Iceland can serve as an example of how to battle increased oil prices and climate change through comprehensive transformation of the energy system. We have transformed Iceland from being predominantly a fossil-fuel user into a world leader as regards the production and consumption of clean energy. Now 100% of our electricity is produced from clean energy sources, and over 75% of our total energy needs, including fuel for cars and shipping, are met by hydro or geothermal power.

We believe that if Iceland could do this, so can others. Our experience from harnessing our renewable energy resources can benefit other nations. In particular geothermal energy can play an important role in this aspect in many parts of the world. Contrary to what many people believe, geothermal energy is accessible in a great many countries, many of them developing countries, but it has not been harnessed due to lack of know-how to do so. Renewable energy is the solution but it can be hard to adopt new technology if it is not at hand. Transfer of technology is therefore crucial.

For almost 30 years the Icelandic government has operated and funded the United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme, training hundreds of young professionals, both men and women from 40 developing countries. These professionals have later become instrumental in the buildup of geothermal energy projects in their home countries. This is one kind of technological transfer that we believe is helpful and which should be expanded in the years to come.

The potential for hydro power is also vast. Africa, for example, is at the moment only using 7% of its potential hydro power. Iceland will be hosting in June 2009 an international conference on sustainable hydro-power. We sincerely hope that many participants from developing countries will be able to attend.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we face a challenge and what is required for the solution is political will and more effective international cooperation both with respect to technology transfer and innovative financing for sustainable development.

## V. viðauki: Aðrar ræður

**Framtíðin er í okkar höndum – Áskorun vegna loftslagsbreytinga; Ávarp Ingibjargar Sólrúnar Gísladóttur, utanríkisráðherra á ráðherrafundi allsherjarþings SP um loftslagsmál, 24. september 2007**

Iceland pledges full political support to our common goal of halting global-warming. We welcome Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's initiative and stress the necessity of addressing the challenge of global warming within the framework of the United Nations. No other forum is more likely to provide the universal political mandate necessary. We must give political leadership.

Global warming is a fact. We have to face it and adapt to it at every level; personal, national, regional and global. At the same time we must use every available technology and resource to mitigate its effects. It will be costly, but it is a price we cannot avoid paying. If we do not act now the price will only rise. This cost, however, can also become an investment in the future and it can open up a whole new world of economic opportunities.

There is no single "one-size-fits-all" solution available to the task of mitigation. We must instead, construct a toolbox of multiple approaches through technological innovation and transfer of knowledge. We must take better care of soil conservation and increase carbon sequestration. We believe there are many synergies between combating climate change, strengthening biodiversity and halting desertification.

One important method of mitigation is tied to the task of adaptation; changing from carbon-emitting energy and technology to renewable sources. Development of renewable energy is one of the most pressing tasks. We should be careful that the development of biomass-based fuel to lead to an increase in food prices and therefore become a cause of hunger. We must secure proper mechanisms and support to developing countries so that they can harness renewable energy resources.

To advance the development of new technology we must encourage private investments in new solutions. We must make the private sector a powerful ally of governments in spreading climate-friendly technology and best practices.

We must also be creative in finding solutions through use of carbon markets to cap emissions and transfer technology. This can also be useful to help adaptation in many of the most vulnerable areas of the world.

We should strive towards a workable universal agreement with the UN system. We cannot allow priorities set unilaterally by the large and powerful states only, to set the political agenda. The issue concerns all humanity. Our responsibility is to prioritize the needs and interests of those peoples who will be worst hit by climate change in coming decades. Although we welcome the initiative of the G8 or the United States or anyone else we stress that all negotiations of the implementation remain transparent and open to the participation of all nations.

The forum of a new global agreement must continue to be the existing UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Political talks at other venues can boost progress at the Convention but must not distract the focus from the discussion already underway there.

Whatever the regime agreed on after 2012, it must be based on the Framework Convention and preserve the key premises of the Kyoto Protocol that have proven useful; notably time bound targets on emissions reductions and continued international trade with carbon quotas. But the agreement will of course have to be sufficiently flexible to allow for the participation of the large rapidly developing G77 countries, as well as the United States and Australia. Success in addressing the chemical threat to the ozone layer with the Montreal Protocol 20 years ago could well be an encouragement.

We have no other option but to instruct our representatives at the Bali Conference in December, to stake out a future course, based on a shared vision and shared responsibility and maintaining the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals. Let us also do our utmost to ensure the Copenhagen Summit in 2009 delivers an ambitious agreement on a time bound target and a plan to mitigate climate change.

**Minningarathöfn vegna andláts Sri Chinmoy; Ávarp fastafulltrúa við athöfn í Sameinuðu þjóðunum, 30. október 2007**

Dear friends,

on a very beautiful day in August my wife and I visited Sri Chinmoy and friends at his Centre in Queens. We were welcomed most warmly and it was an uplifting experience we shall not forget.

We talked with Sri Chinmoy about meeting again in the New Year and even an idea of his visiting Iceland once more was discussed. He has however in the meantime embarked on a longer and more unexpected journey.

The second time we visited was at the tribute for him where his body lay in wake.

I am reminded of what we are taught always in Iceland, that life is but a journey with two certainties: our birth and our death. But what matters is what we do on that journey between these two points. And we celebrate today, with joy, the life of Sri Chinmoy. For he embodies the best in humankind: love, and work towards peace and understanding between peoples and different cultures. As the Leader of Peace Meditations at the United Nations and through his many statements and writings there is ample evidence of his deep belief in what the United Nations stand for. I would like to read one short example of this from the beautiful brochure in front of you, and I quote:

“To me, the United Nations is great.

Why? Because it has high principles.

To me, the United Nations is good.

Why? Because it leaves no stone unturned

to transform these principles into living realities.” (Sri Chinmoy)

He made many journeys to Iceland, and found a great affinity with the people of Iceland. We are a country without a military and keep saying that the work towards peace does not rely on the might of the military, but the might of the words, the might of the ideas. And what an idea-builder and a man of the word, of the good words of love and peaceful togetherness, we are celebrating today.

Over 70 per cent of the Parliamentarians of the Icelandic Althingi, which is the oldest living Parliament in the world, established in 930—were among those who asked the Nobel Prize Committee in Oslo to give the Peace Prize to Sri Chinmoy, that Ex-vice President Al Gore received. This is an indication of the effect Sri Chinmoy had and the high esteem with which we in Iceland hold him.

His spirit lives on. We are grateful and joyful for what he has given the world, and what he dedicated his life to. It was indeed a great journey.

**Réttindi barna; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á sérstökum fundi allsherjarþingsins sem tileinkaður var réttindum barna, 12. desember.**

Five years have passed since the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children at which we committed to creating „A World fit for Children". This commemorative high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly gives us an important opportunity to reflect on the progress made and measure the degree of implementation of the Declaration and the Action Plan.

In this context, we warmly welcome the comprehensive report by the Secretary General on Children and the Millennium Development Goals and the report by UNICEF „Progress for Children" which provide an excellent basis for our discussion. Both reports note that significant progress has been made during the five year reporting period in many countries, but also make it clear that much more remains to be done in protecting and promoting the rights of children.

Iceland would like to reaffirm its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Declaration and the Action Plan contained in the document „A World fit for Children". Iceland remains fully committed to the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and its two optional Protocols, which Iceland has already ratified. In this context, we wish to emphasize the importance of full and effective implementation of these legal instruments by all Member States.

Iceland has underlined the importance of close cooperation between the United Nations, Governments and civil society in order to promote and protect the human rights of children. In this context, I would like to emphasize the important role of UNICEF in safeguarding the rights and interests of children.

Violence against children continues to persist in all parts of the world. The study submitted last year by the independent expert on violence against children, documented the nature, extent and causes of violence against children and the destructive impact that violence has on children and society. We highly appreciate the attention the study has brought to this serious issue at a global level.

The report also identifies areas where concrete action is needed by Member States. No form of violence can be justified and we must prevent, eliminate and respond to all violence against children. We place great emphasis on the prohibition of all forms of violence against children, including all corporal punishment. We also acknowledge that violence against children has a gender dimension. Girls are by far the most vulnerable, particularly as victims of sexual violence.

We warmly welcome the decision to appoint a Special Representative on violence against children. The special representative should act as a high profile and an independent global advocate to promote the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children.

Iceland is concerned about the serious problem of children in armed conflict. We urge all states to strengthen their efforts to ensure the safety and security of children, living in conflict areas. We fully support the notion that the most effective way of protecting children's rights is to prevent conflict and promote peace and security.

Iceland is committed to progress in all of the major areas of "A world fit for Children".

Iceland has completely revised its legislation regarding children and child protection in 2002 and 2003 with the aim to ensure the rights of children and protection from violence and abuse and to strengthen the participation of children in matters that concern them.

Our most concentrated effort is the Icelandic National Plan of Action to improve the situation of children, young persons and their families, approved by the Icelandic Parliament in 2007. The Government has appointed an inter-ministerial coordinating body responsible for its implementation.

The priorities include an examination and implementation of our duties with regards to international conventions and recommendations, first and foremost the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, secondly, the Council of Europe's Recommendation from 2006 (Rec(2006)19) on positive parenting and thirdly the new important Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse from 2007.

The National Plan of Action includes measures to improve the financial position of families with children and to provide support for those involved with raising children. It



includes general preventive measures to improve the health and well-being of children and measures to benefit children in need of special protection, such as children with special health problems, drug-abuse problems, children of immigrants and victims of sexual offences.

The Government has also in December 2007 introduced a comprehensive new school policy and bills for legislation for pre-schools, primary- and secondary education to ensure the rights of all children in Iceland to education directed at the development of their full potential and preparation of every child for responsible life in a free society in the spirit of tolerance, peace and equality.

The best interests of children should be our priority. Children are still being denied human rights and their rights violated all over the world. We must renew our political will to intensify our common efforts towards building a world fit for children and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

**Sjóður Sameinuðu þjóðanna fyrir neyðaraðstoð (CERF); Ávarp fastafulltrúa á ráðstefnu um sjóð Sameinuðu þjóðanna fyrir neyðaraðstoð, 13. desember 2007**

Iceland welcomes the successful achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund during its first years of operation. The fund has proved its purpose and it has our continuous support.

We all know that extensive delays in getting humanitarian assistance to those in need can prove to be disastrous. For that reason, predictable, fast and sound funding in the wake of humanitarian disasters is of essence.

Here, the Central Emergency Response Fund has an important role to play, as it provides a reliable source of finance that helps agencies on the ground to deal with humanitarian problems quickly.

Or, to put it plainly: the Fund enables the UN to do more and to do it sooner – it saves lives!

One of the most important aspects of the Fund is, in our view, the emphasis on addressing under-funded emergencies. It is sometimes hard to admit, but political realities have repeatedly translated into over-emphasis on certain emergencies, perhaps at the cost of others. These are realities that we will continue to be faced with, and therefore it is up to the UN to ensure that those under-funded emergencies get the necessary attention. In this connection, the Fund plays a crucial role.

Governments have an important role to play in ensuring availability of funds. Iceland, no stranger to catastrophic volcanic eruptions and strong earthquakes, has supported the CERF from its inception. We are pleased to observe the enthusiasm with which member states have pledged contributions to the Fund, and are glad to inform you that in 2008 the Government of Iceland will contribute five hundred and sixty thousand USD (560.000) to the Fund.

**Alþjóðleg þróunarsamvinna; Ræða fulltrúa Íslands á janúarfundi framkvæmdastjórnar þróunaráætlunar Sameinuðu þjóðanna UNDP/UNFPA, 21. janúar 2008**

Let me begin by congratulating you and other members of the Bureau, on your election, wish you the best of luck and reassure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support. As this is the first time Iceland holds a seat on the Executive Board, I would like to note that we particularly look forward to working with the Board.

Before turning to the substantive points, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the victims of the attack on the UN offices in Algiers in December last

year, as well as to their families, friends and colleagues. It is cause for grave concern that the UN is being targeted by terrorist groups, and it truly demonstrates the challenge that the fight against terrorism is.

In view of this, it should be noted that Iceland supports the proposal put forth by the Administrator regarding additional United Nations mandated security measures required for UNDP personnel and premises.

We would like to thank the Administrator for his opening statement this morning, his reflections on the complexity of the development environment and for the overview of UNDP's work during the past year. There are certainly formidable challenges ahead but given the drive and the commitment of UNDP and its partners, they will without doubt be overcome.

Turning to the biennial support budget, we thank the Administrator for its presentation and extend our appreciation to the ACABQ for its reports on the budget.

It is generally acknowledged, that Results Based Budgeting is a much better management tool than the traditional budget process. When fully implemented, it should lead to increased transparency and accountability and make it easier to measure the development impact. However, there are considerable challenges involved in changing the budgeting focus from inputs, to outputs and, more importantly, to outcomes.

Nonetheless, we do think that the funds and programmes are on the right track, and that the enhanced responsibility and accountability in implementing programmes and budget that we gain by using RBB, outweigh the short-term challenges.

In going forward, we think it is important that Management takes systematically into account many of the important comments made by ACABQ. In particular, there is need for enhanced cooperation and harmonisation amongst the different UN funds and programmes when it comes to budget preparation and presentation, particularly on the methodology of results based budgeting, including, on targets and indicators.

This is also needed when it comes to cost classification, and we look forward to reviewing the report thereon to be discussed by the Board in the January 2009. Furthermore, we note that this is a dynamic exercise, and that it is crucial that the experiences and lessons learnt from this first RBB budget presentation is fed into the preparation of the next biennial support budget.

Predictable funding is the key to effective planning and enables UNDP to focus on its core priorities and functions. As noted in the Administrator's report, there is an upward trend in estimated core contributions to the UNDP, which we welcome, and believe reflects UNDP's key development role within the UN system. My government firmly supports the work of UNDP, and its strong commitment to the achievement of the MDGs and as an indication of this, Iceland has gradually been increasing core funds allocated to UNDP.

We believe that it is a sign of prudent management that a part of the volume increase is allocated to strengthened assurance and oversight support, and training courses for the resident coordinators, and we welcome the focus given to this in the budget. We also welcome the increased attention given to monitoring and evaluation, which are crucial for the effective management of the Programme. At the same time, we have to be careful not to lose sight of the main purpose of UNDP's work administ focusing on important management and administrative issues. Those should not be objectives in themselves, but only means for the Programme to better deliver on the ground.

We recognise that growing scope of UNDP's work along with growth in total donor contributions, call for increased number of professional posts. When it comes to post allocations and reclassifications, we would like to emphasise the importance of adhering to the principle of gender balance, not least when strengthening of senior level management capacity.

Allow me briefly to make a few comments on the UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009. We warmly welcome the trend of increased donor contributions and note that even with relatively limited resources, UNIFEM has managed to deliver its role in an effective and efficient manner.

In Iceland's view, the proposed biennial support budgets, both relating to UNDP and UNIFEM, strike the right balance between fiscal prudence and adequate financing of the administrative functions, while at the same time duly reflect the mandates and priorities of these two important UN organs. We can hence support both proposals.

The Government of Iceland considers UNIFEM as a key partner and as an indication of that, this year, we doubled the 2007 contribution to the Fund, which is a thirty-fold increase in our contributions since 2003 and an indication of our firm support to the Fund.

We agree with the need to strengthen corporate policy and strategy development by funding a post from the support budget to that end. This also relates to strengthened programme support services and increased decentralisation and delegation of authority.

In closing, Mr. President, we remain confident that both UNDP and UNIFEM will live up to the development and institutional challenges they face, and assure you of our continued support.

**Jafnrétti kynjanna; Ræða fulltrúa Íslands, fyrir hönd tólf ríkja, á janúarfundi framkvæmdastjórnar UNDP, 24. janúar 2008**

I have the honour to present this statement on behalf of the following countries:

Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Malawi, Mexico, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sweden and Iceland.

We thank the Administrator for the oral report on the 2007 Gender Action Plan and the Gender Equality Strategy 2008 – 2011, both of which we are strong supporters. We look forward to seeing the full report in due course.

We would like to congratulate UNDP for the progress made in addressing the conclusions and recommendations made in the 2005 Evaluation of Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP. We all know that the evaluation portrayed a rather bleak picture of UNDP's gender work, and the need for sustained action was therefore called for by the Executive Board and recognized by UNDP Management. In our view, UNDP has responded well to this call, as was exemplified by the adoption and implementation of the Gender Action Plan, and will continue under the Gender Equality Strategy.

We would also like to note the outcome of the TCPR from December last year and expect UNDP to fully implement the relevant elements of GA resolution 62/208 that gives good guidance to the operational activities on gender as well as the relevant elements of GA resolution 59/250.

It is widely accepted that women's rights are human rights. Moreover, gender equality and women's empowerment are central to development, and as such necessary preconditions for successful achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore one of our core responsibilities as an Executive Board to give Gender the emphasis that it deserves, and keep it as one of the main pillars of UNDP's agenda.

For this to be the case, UNDP needs to firmly adhere to the two pronged approach on gender-policy as set forward in the 2006-2007 Gender Action Plan:

First, gender perspectives need to be mainstreamed into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all of the policies and programmes of UNDP. In doing so, it is important that UNDP relies on gender-disaggregated data as an essential input into gender analysis and to the understanding of the different economic contributions,

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circumstances and the realities of women and men alike. Based on national ownership of development efforts, this is a necessary precondition for identifying the existing gender gaps, as well as for designing the appropriate policies to address those gaps.

Furthermore, as UNDP is moving towards increased focus on results based management, particular attention must be given to explicit and visible gender-related results.

Secondly, in order to achieve tangible results, resources, both for gender-specific projects and gender mainstreaming activities must be available, consistent, transparent and measurable. We recognise that much effort has been done in that respect, and we are pleased that over the past years UNDP has been directing more funds to this important field. However, at the same time as gender equality and women's empowerment are being recognised as fundamental to development, global financing for gender mainstreaming and gender specific programmes remains insufficient. Lofty commitments are too often not translated into action, and we hear that frequently supply does not meet demand. This is truly a worrying trend, because without resources there is no delivery!

There is always the danger that by making gender mainstreaming everybody's responsibility; it becomes nobody's responsibility. For that reason, and in order for UNDP's declared commitment to gender to be translated into concrete results, it is essential to establish unambiguous lines of accountability within UNDP, ranging from the country level to top management.

Accountability is also important at the UN system level, and so is the issue of cross-agency cooperation and harmonization on gender issues within UN. In today's era, when the crucial importance of women in health, education, poverty reduction, development, governance and peace building, is widely acknowledged, and the demand from programme countries for assistance in this field is increasing, the UN needs take an horizontal view and evaluate how to best respond to those new realities. In doing so, it is important that further complementarities are sought, duplication of work avoided and optimal use of resources secured.

Together, the member states and the UN, we all have the responsibility to ensure that the UN is prepared to adequately address the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, as areas of fundamental importance for the advancement of development, peace and security, and the attainment of the MDGs.

In closing, allow me to reaffirm the support of all our delegations to UNDP's Gender Action Plan, and the new Corporate Gender Equality Strategy and wish UNDP's management, and staff, best of luck in carrying this important task forward.

### **Fjármögnun UNIFEM; Ræða fulltrúa Íslands í framkvæmdastjórn UNDP, 25 janúar 2008**

First of all my delegation would like to thank Ms. Joanne Sandler, Ad Interim Executive Director of UNIFEM, for her excellent presentation of UNIFEM's Resource Mobilization Framework for the period 2008-2011. We congratulate UNIFEM management for a comprehensive Framework, and are particularly content with the lucidity with which it is presented, and the clear targets set.

As Board members recall, there has been quite a bit of discussion on UNIFEM's ambitiousness when it comes to resource mobilization, characterized by considerable speculations on the realism of UNIFEM's management in aiming for the doubling of resources during the period of the new Strategic Plan. Of course, these are valid concerns, but we agree with UNIFEM's Management that this is a realistic ambition, particularly with a view of UNIFEM's resource mobilization record over the past few years. In our view, UNIFEM needs to be ambitious; in fact it should be one of the Funds' main characteristics.

The strengthening of partnerships is an obvious precondition for UNIFEM reaching its funding goals and we think that the Framework arrives at covering this issue from a number of important angles. We particularly welcome the focus given to strengthened partnerships with the private sector and civil society, including the Goodwill Ambassadors, which we believe will also strengthen global support and advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment.

As regards specific targets and priorities, in particular the diversification of the resource base, we sincerely hope that the target of reaching at least 100 Member States, as contributors to UNIFEM, will be achieved.

However, for it to succeed, the ambitiousness and the strengthening of strategic partnerships must be accompanied by communicating of results, and we appreciate the attention given to this fundamental element in the Framework. In order to be able to reach the resource mobilisation targets it is important to communicate, and to be accountable, both to partners, as well as to programme countries, in a transparent manner on how the resources are being used. This will strengthen the support base on both ends.

It is regrettable to see, that in the year 2008, after decades of acknowledging how important gender equality and women's empowerment is to development, both multilateral and bilateral ODA dedicated to promoting gender equality is insufficient. It is not enough to **assume** that gender equality will be covered within general social sector programmes. Funds for gender equality and women's empowerment **must** be available, transparent, substantial and measurable.

In Iceland's opinion, UNIFEM is one of the key expert agencies when it comes to gender equality and women's empowerment, and hence a key channel through which donors can direct their gender-related development assistance. Iceland wants to see UNIFEM continue to grow, and as an indication of that, we have been greatly increasing our contributions to the Fund. In going forward, we regard the Resource Mobilization Framework, along side the Strategic Plan, as being of a particular importance for UNIFEM so as to provide the strategy and goals towards which the Fund can work. We sincerely hope that its goals will be achieved, and wish UNIFEM's management and staff the best of luck in carrying out this important task.

**Loftslagsbreytingar og nauðsyn aðgerða allra ríkja heims til að draga úr losun gróðurhúsalofttegunda; Ávarp fastaftullrúa á sérstökum fundi allsherjarþings SP um loftslagsbreytingar, 12. febrúar 2008**

We thank you for convening this Thematic Debate on one of the major concerns of mankind today. Last September world leaders sent an unambiguous political message to the delegations at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Bali, guiding them to ambitiously seek a common ground to deal with the threats caused by global warming. The Bali Action Plan - with its four equally important building blocks - mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing - must lead to a comprehensive global agreement in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

The difference in views on approaches to the threat of worldwide climate disturbances is understandable. It reflects gaps in social conditions and industrial development between the wealthiest and the poorest nations. The most vulnerable, including the Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries, which will be hardest hit, are least responsible for causing climate change. We must accept the fact that securing a safe future for mankind is the common responsibility of all nations. It is obvious that the economic costs of doing so must be shared according to means.

It is important to note, as others have done, that financing of climate change adaptation and investments in mitigating technologies can not - and must not - in any way undermine development cooperation aimed at obtaining the Millennium Development Goals.

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In the Background Paper for this Thematic Discussion you put forward some highly relevant and important questions about the role of the United Nations in addressing climate change.

And the UN has indeed an important role to play, and so have we all, individually and collectively. National governments and local authorities have legislative and enforcement roles and regional groups of states should foster very close cross-border cooperation.

We welcome the initiatives of groups of world leaders, like the G-8 and the Major Economies' Meetings on Energy Security and Climate Change. Their efforts are a valuable contribution towards a common binding United Nations agreement. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the only viable forum, both for reaching and enforcing a worldwide consensus on actions for addressing climate change in a comprehensive way. The General Assembly, however, is an appropriate forum for giving political guidance, as this thematic debate should demonstrate.

The role of the United Nations institutions in supporting and financing necessary actions is vital. The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation are instrumental in bringing about and supporting partnership actions worldwide and are helpful in designing and implementing innovative financing mechanisms.

The transfer of technology is one of the crucial elements in addressing climate change. Governments should facilitate investments by the private sector in new clean energy technology in developing countries and countries in transition, especially with legislation providing security of investments and by avoiding burdening new technologies with undue taxation.

By encouraging the private sector to invest in clean energy technologies in developing countries, a whole new world of opportunities for future technological innovation may be opened. It is estimated that by the year 2030 up to seven trillion dollars worth of clean energy investments may have been made, paving the way for a carbon neutral future. It is unquestionably the role of the United Nations to ensure that this new industrial revolution does not pass the doors of those countries where new investments and technological knowhow is most needed.

Currently over 80% of all primary energy used in Iceland is renewable, which is the highest ratio of renewable energy use in the world. Iceland is proud to be at the forefront of developing the most advanced technology to harvest one of the cleanest and safest renewable energy resource in the world. Geothermal power is potentially accessible in some ways in over 90 countries in the world. It is estimated that new geothermal power projects could increase installed capacity by 50 percent or more in the next five years worldwide, as the number of countries with geothermal power operations will double to over 40.

For almost 30 years the Icelandic government has operated and funded the United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme, training hundreds of young professionals, both men and women from 40 developing countries. These professionals have later become instrumental in the buildup of geothermal energy projects in their home countries. This is one kind of technological transfer that we believe is helpful and which should be expanded in the years to come.

### **Púsaldarmarkmið Sameinuðu þjóðanna í þróunarmálum; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á sérstökum fundi allsherjarþings SP um púsaldarmarkmiðin, 2. apríl 2008**

Let me begin by thanking the President of the General Assembly for organizing this thematic debate on an issue that lies at the heart of this Organization, the Millennium Development Goals. We are halfway towards the year 2015, and we believe this is a good time for stocktaking and addressing thoroughly the challenges ahead.

At the outset, I would like to associate myself with the statement on sexual and reproductive health and rights, made by the distinguished representative of Sweden on behalf of the five Nordic countries. The eight MDGs are not only equally important in themselves, but are also highly related and mutually reinforcing. Emphasizing poverty, education and health, will have a lasting effect on sustainable economic and social development.

We are not half way to the goal of halving poverty and hunger. Even though progress has been considerable in some regions, progress in others is seriously lagging behind. Sustained economic growth is a necessary premise for generating resources for the fight against poverty and hunger. The current downturn in the global economy is therefore particularly worrying. But economic growth is not a sufficient precondition for poverty eradication; we need a comprehensive approach to development, which will generate pro-poor growth that benefits all segments of society.

Iceland's development policy focuses on the poorest of the poor, and the greatest part of our bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) is targeted to the needs of LDCs. Recent hikes in the price of staple foods are particularly worrying. Food security has been an important aspect of our development cooperation, particularly related to the fisheries sector. We have also increased our emphasis on food security through increased support for the UN World Food Programme. We will continue to maintain our policy of channeling the largest share of our development cooperation to people living in extreme poverty and hunger.

The role of education in poverty reduction is undisputed, and education is an essential part of a comprehensive approach to development. It is important in this context that we focus both on the quantity, and the quality of education. Not only do we need to assist developing countries in facilitating access and enrolment at all levels; but we also need to give sufficient attention to important education results such as literacy and numeracy. Our firm belief that education is the key to success, has been the cornerstone of our national and international development policies.

Projects in this area have taken place at various levels, ranging from primary and adult education, to training and capacity building in fisheries in the partner countries, as well as support to higher education. Iceland hosts two of the United Nations University training programmes, the geothermal and fisheries training programmes.

Women play a fundamental role in sustainable development, and are too often – and sadly - the poorest of the poor. Experience has shown that support for the education, health and economic activities of women not only has a significant impact on their own lives and well-being, but has a multiplier effect for their communities. For this reason we have increasingly directed our development cooperation at gender specific projects. This has been done through our bilateral programmes in the partner countries and through support to the work of UNIFEM, and through other multilateral activities.

The WFP school feeding programme, one of the programmes that Iceland supports, is a good example of our combined work on poverty, education and health. In the year 2007 and 2008, Iceland's contribution will provide 45.000 children in Malawi and Uganda with nutritious daily meals at school, making it easier for them to concentrate and learn. An equal number of children attend primary school in Iceland.

The fact that three out of the eight Millennium Development Goals focus on health exemplifies the close link between health and development, and signifies the pressing need for assistance in this field. Poor health and lack of access to health facilities contributes to slow economic and social growth, as well as sustained poverty.

For these reasons the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) has focused on supporting the health sector in its partner countries. In addition, Iceland has supported a number of multilateral efforts in this area, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,

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Tuberculosis and Malaria. Iceland has also for years supported UNFPA's campaign against fistula.

The MDGs can only be achieved by forging a true global partnership. To conclude Mr. President, I would like to highlight the importance of the upcoming meeting in Doha in November on Financing for Development. We will not achieve our goals without increased financing from all available sources. The Government of Iceland stands ready to shoulder its responsibility. We aim to be among the top ODA contributors, our development assistance having doubled over the past four years.

### **Vortónleikar Sri Chinmoy Bahajan sönghópsins; Setningarræða fastafulltrúa á tónleikum sem haldnir voru í húsakynnum SP, 11. apríl 2008**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is gratifying to see so many here today.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this afternoon's Spring Concert by the Sri Chinmoy Bhajan Singers.

The songs they will perform today were composed by Sri Chinmoy, who was the leader of Peace Meditations at the United Nations for over three decades. His love for humankind and his aspiration for a better world are evident in his music, which has always served to unite peoples and cultures across the globe in peace and understanding.

I am especially pleased to be your host today, as Sri Chinmoy was a personal friend and also had a great affinity with Iceland, which he visited seven times. Icelanders hold in high esteem his lofty vision and tireless service for peace. To quote from one of his many inspiring statements about the United Nations:

“The inner heart of the United Nations is flooded with peace.

The outer heart of the United Nations is trying to spread peace all over the world.”

Indeed, the same could be said for this extraordinary man of the spirit, whose inner existence was flooded with peace, and whose entire outer existence was dedicated to offering this peace to others – here at the United Nations, and throughout the length and breadth of the world.

I would now like to introduce to you the talented Ms. Ranjana Ghose, who is a great exponent of Sri Chinmoy's philosophy and music.

### **“Model UN”; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands og varaforseta allsherjarþingsins á fundi með “Model UN” nemum, 22. apríl 2008**

As one of the Vice-Presidents of the 62nd Session, let me welcome you to the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of Dr. Kerim the President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly and all of us who work here.

Let me start by putting a few things in perspective. I come from Iceland, a country with a population of about 300 thousand or approximately one thousandth of the population of the United States. In other words, yours truly represents the same proportion of the Icelandic people as if you had 1000 US Ambassadors standing here in my place speaking to you all at once!

Statistics can be fun!

Of the 192 member states of the UN today 100 belong to an informal group called FOSS, the Forum of Small States. When Iceland joined the UN on 19. November 1946 it was the Member State with the fewest inhabitants for about the next two decades. Now there are over twenty Member States of the UN that have smaller populations than my country. There are also over twenty Member States of the UN that have no standing armies or military and many more with only what can be described as token military forces.



I mention these facts only to demonstrate that the political multilateral system is constantly changing. We may not see or feel it on a daily basis, but when we look back a few years we all realize the dynamism of change. We only need to go back 18 years, before the fall of the Berlin wall, to see the tremendous changes that have occurred. Each generation is like a wave in the Ocean, bringing with it inevitable changes and new challenges. But fortunately there are certain constants that will hopefully never change for human kind: The love of life and family, the yearning for peace and a meaningful existence, the search for knowledge and wisdom, to name but a few. And here is where the only truly Global Organization, the United Nations, must play a key role if we, our children and grandchildren are to survive, evolve and prosper.

Before touching on some of the priority issues of the 62 nd Session let me just mention briefly the short Icelandic experience with the Model UN. The first Icelandic Model UN conference was held in the fall of 2003 at the initiative of a few political science students that had been introduced to MUN conferences abroad. The conference was supported by the United Nations Association in Iceland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. As is the case here at the UN the cooperation between the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway, turned out to be very important. The assistance from the Norwegian Model UN Association in particular proved crucial for the organization and execution of the conference.

The Icelandic Model UN Association was then formally founded after the second Icelandic Model UN conference and works now as a part of the Icelandic UN Association. Members of IceMUN have participated in conferences all over the world as well as chairing Model UN 's in other Nordic countries.

Many of the organizers and participants in the first Icelandic Model UN conference have gone on to work for the Icelandic parliament, UNIFEM, WFP and the Icelandic Foreign Service, MUN is clearly a great foundation for careers in international diplomacy and civil service.

I wish all of you who, with the wonderful idealism of youth, want to better our world, fruitful and meaningful endeavours. May you not be disappointed.

Turning now to the priority issues on the agenda of the 62nd Session that are truly global. Climate change, financing for development, counter-terrorism, UN reform and the millennium development goals, are all issues that present global challenges and require global solutions and no one State – or a single group of States– can tackle them alone.

However, the international community is confronting a paradox. On the one hand, everyone understands that global problems require global solutions, and that these can only be reached through mutual respect and partnership. On the other hand, the high level of mistrust, tension and fear of the 'other' is evident among states and in the perceptions and behaviour of people throughout the world.

For this reason, the President of the 62nd Session has aimed to foster a spirit of cooperation and to involve other sectors of society that can help the General Assembly to make real progress on the many challenges we face.

Climate change was the focus of the general debate of the 62nd Session. In February this year, the General Assembly held a thematic debate on "Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work." This spring, follow-up discussions will be held focusing firstly on countries in special situations (SIDS, LLDC) and secondly on the role of the business sector.

The process of Financing for Development is also underway. It is time to take action and involve partners with the resources, vision and commitment to make progress a reality.

On the Millennium Development Goals, an informal thematic debate took place at the beginning of this month, entitled "Recognizing the achievements, addressing the challenges and getting back on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015." The debate focused on poverty and hunger; education; health (maternal and child health, malaria and TB) to

highlight lessons learned and possible additional measures to ensure that the goals are attained.

A thematic debate on improving the management of the UN was also held this month.

Additionally, other Informal Thematic Debates will be held on timely issues such as human trafficking (3 June), and human security (July).

Countering terrorism is another priority issue which has forced the UN to reflect on ways to deal with new actors and networks across borders and beyond the purview of any one State. A review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is scheduled for September of this year.

Security Council reform also remains high on the agenda. There is widespread recognition that the status quo is not acceptable. As threats to international security have changed since 1945, so must the decision-making structures responsible for preventing and responding to those challenges.

System-wide Coherence is another process which demands attention. The UN has grown in size and scope, and often the UN will have many different agencies and programmes in one country. Ensuring that the UN delivers as one – in a coherent way - and that its work at the country level corresponds to the priorities and plans of the country in question is urgent, so that we can effectively manage our resources and maximize our impact.

The issue of HIV/AIDS cannot be forgotten. Despite progress in many parts of the world, HIV/AIDS continues to wield a devastating impact. No one problem can be viewed in isolation. For communities severely affected by HIV/AIDS, development, human rights and human security are also threatened.

For the UN to respond to both new and ongoing challenges, it must be an agile institution that reflects present-day realities, and takes into account the evolution of sovereignty. Sovereign rights go hand in hand with sovereign duties and global responsibilities. You can't have one without the other.

The post Second World War institutions were set up to maintain peace and security, economic and financial stability, promote health, and protect the environmental sphere, but they are inadequate to address the challenges of a globalized world.

We need more responsibility and accountability on the part of Member States and international institutions, as well as regional entities and non-state actors. Together we have to move from recognizing problems to identifying and implementing solutions.

The process for renovating the United Nations building has begun. Like the building which is showing signs of its years, the mentality and working methods of the UN are also dated, and it is our task to modernize the UN not only on the outside, but also on the inside, with new technology, new ideas, and the capacity to adapt to the needs of the future. As tomorrow's diplomats and international civil servants – this task will be yours to complete. The Capital Master Plan to renovate the UN building should signal that it is time to renovate our mindset as well. All key players in the international community, without exception, must reposition themselves. Only then can we achieve the effective multilateralism that is needed now, more than ever.

Globalization has brought the world closer together, erasing gaps of time and space – yet much of the world's population remains at the margins of this progress with little or no chance of competing in an ever more accelerating and competitive global economy.

As 2008 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we must ask ourselves what tools will guarantee human rights and opportunities for all.

The first step is a new mindset. We need a new culture of international relations, based on the principles of freedom, mutual respect, solidarity, and shared responsibility; the values of human rights and human security, the responsibility to protect and sustainable development. These are the ingredients of a vision for the future and the basis for the UN of the 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup> century, the UN that will be in your hands.

I urge you to begin to realize this new culture as of now.

With information technology reaching the furthest corners of the world, the wide gap in living standards is more evident than ever before, and the underprivileged experience frustration and dissatisfaction.

Over 200 million young people worldwide live in extreme poverty. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals is therefore as much your concern as it is that of the Member States who committed themselves to achieving the MDGs.

As college students, and Model UN participants, your awareness of global issues is vital. How you cope with these realities, and the values that you choose to live by will determine not only the course of your lives, but also the direction of society globally and the future of the planet.

Your awareness and sensitivity to the imbalances of the world should not depress you but rather inspire you to become agents of change, to challenge accepted notions, and take action on behalf of those in need.

The media targets young people. If you articulate your concerns loud and clear, these will resonate in global public opinion and will become policy priorities in the future.

Today we have greater mobility between nations and continents, and greater capacity to communicate between cultures than ever before. We have the opportunity to break down barriers. Your generation is more educated and interconnected than any previous one, so you must lead this effort.

Use your power, imagination and your dreams to make a difference in life and let the tools at your disposal, help you create the future that you deserve.

As you prepare to tackle the difficult and timely issues on your agenda, I wish you many inspiring debates and much success.

Before I became a diplomat 32 years ago I was a teacher in my country. When I have the chance to stand before young people, like you here today, I admire the energy, inspiration and idealism each generation brings. If you mix that wisely with the knowledge and experience of older generations and avoid the mistakes of the past you will succeed in making our world a truly better place.

Thank you for allowing me to be with you here in this great hall today.

It was a privilege and a pleasure.

**Markviss nýting netmiðla og umbætur á kynningarstarfi SP; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á 30. ársfundum upplýsinganefndar SP, 29. apríl 2008**

Allow me first of all to congratulate the new Chairman of the Committee on Information, Mr. Andreas Baum of Switzerland, and other members of the bureau on their election. You may be assured of Iceland's full support and co-operation as you guide our work. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairman of the Committee, Rudolf Christen, for his excellent work.

I would like to express our gratitude to the Under-Secretary General, Kiyo Akasaka, and the Department of Public Information for the thorough reports prepared for this meeting, which provide an excellent overview of the activities of the Department and will be of practical use in our deliberations. We acknowledge the positive impact of the Under-Secretary General on the work of the Department and thank him for his opening remarks from yesterday.

Iceland attaches much importance to the work of the Department of Public Information. We warmly welcome its continued efforts to develop a more comprehensive and strategic approach to promoting global awareness and better understanding of the work of the United Nations. We broadly share the priority themes identified by the Department in the

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areas of development, peace and security, including peacekeeping, human rights and climate change.

The UN information centres (UNIC) are central to the work of the Department of Public Information. They play a crucial role in enhancing the public image of the UN all over the world. We welcome the progress and achievements made so far in the implementation of a regional strategic communications model - by rationalizing the network of UN information centres around regional hubs. We firmly support this ongoing work and the creation of a network, within our budget constraints, that more effectively addresses the needs of client audiences.

I would like to echo my colleague from France, who spoke yesterday on behalf of the European Union, about the excellent work and the initiatives undertaken by the Regional Information Centre in Brussels, as we are celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Like the EU, we take note of the improved resources of the information centres, the increased cooperation among them and the pilot role allotted to some of them. The UN information centre in Iceland, run by the Icelandic UN Society, is supported financially by the Icelandic Government.

Iceland welcomes the continued efforts of the Department to improve the UN website which is an increasingly effective instrument for disseminating information about the UN and is growing in popularity as indicated by the increasing number of visits to the website. The UN website's continued development is essential for user satisfaction. We also welcome the steps taken by the Department to make the website more accessible to people with disabilities, including people with visual and hearing disabilities.

My delegation has underlined in previous sessions that multilingualism is a key aspect in the work of the United Nations in all its activities. We take note of the considerable progress that has been made towards reaching parity among the official languages on the website and encourage the Department to continue and strengthen its concrete work in this regard.

We recognize the efforts made by the Department to strengthen cooperation with other UN entities to develop a more coherent communications strategy. I would like to commend the Department's increased cooperation with civil society organizations and its enhanced focus on young people as a strategic audience for its work. Reaching young people should be a top priority in all our actions to promote the values and work of the UN. The Model UN programme, in which more than 400.000 students participate worldwide every year, is a good example how to educate young people about the United Nations.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would again like to assure you of Iceland's firm support. My delegation looks forward to working with all members of this Committee in a constructive manner, through consensus, to improve the overall effectiveness of our work.

### **Fastafulltrúi Íslands tók fyrstu skóflustungu að nýju húsi SP í New York; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands og varaforseta allsherjarþingsins, fyrir hönd forsetans, við sérstaka athöfn þegar hann tók fyrstu skóflustungu að nýju húsi SP í New York, 5. maí 2008**

One of the first acts, the United Nations General Assembly, as it met in London in January of 1946, was to decide that the Organization should be headquartered in the United States. It was temporarily headquartered at Flushing Meadows, Queens, a short distance from here [*gesture to the East*].

However, the following year the vision and generosity of John D. Rockefeller Jr. enabled the General Assembly to build its permanent headquarters where we stand today overlooking the East River.

The construction of the building was borne of multilateral cooperation and inspiration. Led by Wallace Harrison, distinguished architects from ten different countries worked together to build on the original and creative design proposed by Le Corbusier and Oscar Niemeyer.

Within four years, that design was transformed into steel, concrete and glass, and has been our home now for six decades. It was revolutionary, and has become an icon for the entire world.

This ensemble of buildings is a symbol of peace and cooperation.

Over the next five years, these buildings will undergo a transformation; a modernization.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General who last year proposed a plan to accelerate the refurbishing of the building.

I strongly supported his initiative, which will not only reduce the time spent on renovations, but also increase the safety and security of staff, our most precious asset.

I also would like to encourage further efforts to "green" the United Nations building, so that as an organization we become more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly, setting the lead for others in the world to follow.

As I mentioned in the thematic debate on management reform, I hope that the Capital Master Plan, will not only renovate and transform the windows, offices and conference rooms – the UN's hardware – but will also serve as an inspiration to reboot our minds and human processes – the software of the United Nations.

May the renovation of these buildings renew and invigorate our pursuit of peace and cooperation as well.

**Doing Business in Small Island Developing States (SIDS); Ræða fastafulltrúa á fundi með samtökum smárra eyríkja (Association of Small Island States), 6. maí 2008**

The Doing Business report is a renowned and respected publication that highlights individual countries' ease of doing business through benchmarking. In other words, the Doing Business report allows readers to compare government regulations that enhance – or constrain - business activity in 178 countries.

A few years ago, some discerning officials in the Icelandic Foreign Ministry noticed that a number of countries, including Iceland, were excluded from the report. They also noticed that a disproportionate number of them were Small Island Developing States. To remedy this omission, a decision was made by the Government of Iceland to contribute **700.000 USD** to take on board **20 SIDS countries**.

Iceland's decision to finance a special publication of the Doing Business report, called *Doing Business in SIDS*, was an obvious next step. This publication was presented for the first time on 26 March 2008 in Bridgetown, Barbados, at a High-Level Roundtable on International Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Caribbean SIDS.

As you know, Iceland's development policy places priority on SIDS, as evidenced by our new Island Growth Initiative. For Iceland, when increasing its development cooperation, this was an obvious and logical decision; to increase our development resources towards states with similar features and characteristics. As Minister Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir said in Bridgetown, '*As small states we have much in common, and much to gain by working together.*'

It is my hope that the *Doing Business in SIDS* report will spark serious discussions among policy makers and the business community. I believe it could help address the unique characteristics and business challenges of 32 Small Island Developing States. The report has already received very positive feedback and could be a valuable tool for addressing regulatory obstacles to help ease the cost of doing business in SIDS.

It's my great pleasure to present Ms. Svetlana Baugodinova and Iva Ilieva Hamel from the World Bank Doing Business Unit.

**Ákall um aðstoð vegna náttúruhamfara í Myanmar; Ávarp fastafulltrúa á framlagaráðstefnu, 9. maí 2008**

Thank you Mr. Under Secretary General for this flash appeal.

I would like to join my colleagues in expressing our deepest condolences to the victims of the devastating Cyclone "Nargis" that struck Myanmar. Iceland would like to commend the rapid action taken by the UN humanitarian agencies, of which you spoke at the beginning of this meeting, and also by the many NGOs. We also commend the actions of all contributing nations. We echo your appeal for a rapid resolution of all matters in the way of the most speedy and effective relief possible. Time is off the essence, as so many have said today.

The Icelandic Government has decided to contribute one hundred thousand US dollars for immediate humanitarian work. The Icelandic Red Cross has already donated five million Icelandic Krona.

The Icelandic people as a whole have also shown solidarity with the victims of the Cyclone and donations are being collected as we speak.

As a country we are well aware of the impact of natural disasters and Iceland will continue to follow developments and will seek to contribute further where it can.

**Gildistaka sáttmála SP um réttindi fatlaðra; Ávarp fastafulltrúa Íslands og varaforseta allsherjarþingsins fyrir hönd forsetans á hátiðarathöfn, 12. maí 2008**

As one of the Vice Presidents of the General Assembly I have the honour to deliver President Kerim's speech in his absence:

"It gives me great pleasure to address this important event by which we are marking the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006, a major step towards the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all was made. This was when the General Assembly adopted by consensus the landmark Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. All Member States have committed to promoting and protecting the human rights, freedoms and dignity of all persons with disabilities.

For far too long, the international community has been overlooking the unacceptable fact that persons with disabilities live at the margins of too many societies in all parts of the world. An estimated 650 million people live with disabilities and suffer disproportionately from social exclusion and discrimination. The Convention is our response to the need to make the rights of persons with disabilities real, concrete, and incontrovertible.

The entry into force of the Convention on May 3<sup>rd</sup> is therefore an important step and encouraging signal for persons living with disabilities in the world. On the one hand it is a fitting way to honor the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while on the other hand it should make us think through and visit our conscience as to why it took 60 years for us to agree on something that is actually part and parcel of basic human rights.

I sincerely hope that this ambiguity, especially in this anniversary year, will trigger swift and unambiguous implementation of our commitments enshrined in the Convention.

The Convention is a step forward in making development and social progress benefit all people. It is an expression of an increasing awareness of how much we depend on each other to solve our common problems. The challenges we face, such as climate change or the global food crisis, affect us all. In dealing with our common problems we need the

common effort from all members of society. The Convention is not only an acknowledgement of this fact but it is also designed to enable and facilitate this common effort. The engagement of people with disabilities in those efforts should serve as a major source of inspiration for all of us.

The inherent dignity of persons with disabilities is reaffirmed through participatory processes that allow them to make decisions with a free and informed consent. The treaty itself was negotiated with the active participation of NGOs and of persons with disabilities; they have been deeply involved throughout the process. As a result, the Convention takes into account the specific needs of the disabled, providing measures that allow their equal participation in all aspects of life. It addresses issues from accessibility and inclusion to participation and non-discrimination.

So far the Convention has been signed by two thirds of all Member States of the General Assembly, and ratified by 25. These numbers in themselves show a clear commitment to the principles of human rights, dignity and equality of access to opportunity for disabled persons.

The entry into force of this Convention thus provides great momentum for the implementation of global standards for the rights of persons with disabilities. I hope this momentum pushes the process toward the full implementation of the Convention by all Member States. This is a realizable goal, and I urge all States to make every effort in this regard.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a key measure of our civilization. The rights and opportunities that people with disabilities are able to enjoy reflect directly on our common humanity".

**Framlag Íslands í sjóð gegn alnæmi; Ávarp Guðlaugs Þórs Þórðarsonar, heilbrigðisráðherra, á alnæmisráðstefnu Sameinuðu þjóðanna í New York, 10. júní 2008**

At the outset I would like to welcome the report of the Secretary General on the progress achieved midway to the Millennium Development Goals in realizing the targets set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. It is encouraging to observe that since 2006 progress in containing the HIV epidemic is now being seen in nearly all regions of the world.

However, as the report clearly shows these positive trends are not uniform. Serious challenges remain. New infections continue to increase in several countries. Coverage for essential HIV prevention, treatment, care and support remains far too low in many parts of the world to have a major impact on the course of the epidemic. Especially in the countries most heavily affected by HIV, the epidemic's impact sadly continues to grow, with increasing numbers of HIV-affected households and children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV. Let me also say that I am deeply concerned about the overall expansion of the epidemic among women, children and vulnerable groups. These groups must always be centrally involved in actions undertaken against the HIV epidemic. I want to emphasize what President Srgjan Kerim said in his opening speech. We can not make progress when the many teachers of children in some countries are dying from HIV/AIDS. Well educated children are the hope for an AIDS free world.

The rate of progress in expanding access to essential services is failing to keep pace with the expansion of the epidemic itself, a shortcoming that is especially evident with respect to HIV prevention. Unless the international community takes immediate action to follow through on the pledges made to implement an exceptional response to HIV, the epidemic's humanitarian and economic toll will continue to increase.

It is only two years before the deadline for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support and midway towards the target date of 2015 for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Current trends suggest that the global community will fall short of achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support services, without a significant increase in the level of resources available for HIV programs in low- and middle-income countries.

Substantially greater progress will be required to achieve universal access to HIV treatment and care. Much has been achieved in reducing prices for many first-line antiretrovirals over the last decade. Further price reductions for antiretrovirals will be needed to ensure the sustainability of treatment programs, especially with respect to newer antiretroviral drugs. Accordingly, Iceland has adopted legislation on compulsory licensing to make it possible to assist those in need with affordable medicines facilitating our efforts in providing sustainable antiretroviral treatment coverage. An Icelandic pharmaceutical company is currently in the process of obtaining for prequalification licence from WHO to produce affordable antiretroviral drugs.

I am pleased to be able to inform you Mr. President that the Icelandic Government has decided to contribute to the Global Fund with the sum of one million US dollars during the next three years.

I was very moved to listen to Ms Ratri Suksma this morning describing the situation of those living with HIV and I want to join Secretary General Ban Ki-moon when he said in his remarks that he admired the courage of the people living with HIV. They are certainly the heroes of our time.

To conclude, I would like to state I truly believe we can reach the targets set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals and I agree with my distinguished colleague from Malawi that we do that with a combined concerted effort of all nations. Tackling the epidemic is our common task.

**Ljósmyndasýning Páls Stefánssonar í höfuðstöðvum SP; Opnunarávarp fastafulltrúa, 16. júní 2008**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to this exhibition called "The Beautiful Game - Images from the Football Continent", which we are opening on the "Youth Day" - holiday of South Africa.

Football (or soccer as it is called in this country) is by far the most popular sport in this world and is truly a global human *unifier*. We are witnessing these days the positive enthusiasm, energy and friendly competition in the European Cup and we are looking forward to the World Cup in South Africa in 2010.

The phrase "The Beautiful Game" was first coined by Didi, one of the Brazilian superstars and in 1977 Pele, perhaps the greatest footballplayer ever, named his autobiography "My Life and the Beautiful Game". He dedicated his book, and I quote..." to all the people who have made this great game the Beautiful Game" (Wikipedia).

This exhibition of 30 photos taken by Iceland's Páll Stefánsson, a renowned photographer with many photography books to his name, is his ode to the joy at the grassroots of football he witnessed in Benin, Cameroun, Egypt, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo. These photos and others from other African countries also, namely South Africa, Angola, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Tunisia and Mali will appear in a book of a collection of photographs from Africa which will be published towards the end of next year, in time for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

I think that these photos are stunningly beautiful and emanate a lot of joy and it is clear that the artist from the high north has found new and warm colours to work with in the south.

We congratulate him and wish him and the publisher, Mr. Halldór Lárusson, who travelled with Páll Stefánsson in Africa and is standing there together with the artist, great success in their wonderful book project.



**Ársskýrsla Kemal Derviş; Ávarp fulltrúa Íslands á fundi framkvæmdastjórnar UNDP/UNFPA, 22. júní 2008**

I would like to begin by thanking the Administrator, Mr. Kemal Derviş, for his excellent statement, as well as for his elaborate yet concise report on UNDP's activities during 2007.

The challenges of the past year have indeed been great. Conflicts, natural disasters, the effects of variable climate conditions and turbulence in financial markets have caused progress towards the Millennium Development Goals to be slower than hoped for. Rising food prices in world markets have further exasperated the challenges of attaining the MDGs.

The achievement of the MDGs is our common objective and we note the efforts and support that UNDP has provided, both globally and in program countries to that end. As reflected in the Administrator's statement, as well as in the "Multi-year funding framework report on UNDP performance and results for 2007", the UNDP has indeed needed to respond to the challenges of past year, and we note UNDP's positive contribution to that end. We are content to see that UNDP's main focus of work continues to be in the key areas of poverty reduction and governance.

We welcome UNDP's increased support and participation in various global initiatives. Support to the "MDG Africa Steering Group" initiative is a prime example of this, and hope that this work will translate into increased global commitment to the attainment of the MDGs in Africa. We also welcome increased cooperation with other development partners, and hope that UNDP's collaboration with the World Bank will continue to grow.

As regards governance, we note UNDP's positive contribution, particularly in the field of capacity building, as we are certain that capacity building in the areas of good governance and transparency, will further strengthen the management of delivery of goods and services to the poor.

Furthermore, as regards supporting the foundations of democracy, we note the interesting shift from traditional electoral support towards support for strengthening capacities in inter-electoral periods. This hopefully represents a trend towards increased democratic stability around the world. We also welcome the focus on strengthening the rule of law and promoting and protecting the rights of citizens and strongly support UNDP's efforts to that end in the area of justice and human rights.

As highlighted in the Human Development Report of 2007, the regions with the smallest carbon emissions will be those hardest hits by climate change. We therefore welcome UNDP's enhanced work in the field of environment and energy, and applaud the launch of the Poverty-Environment Initiative as well as the MDG Carbon Facility. These initiatives are important milestones that hopefully will have a positive effect on the sustainable use of natural resources, climate change and poverty reduction.

Managing for results is, and should be, and the center of UNDP's work. We therefore appreciate the improvements of the corporate results-based management system and trust that UNDP will continue to strengthen the accountability framework as foreseen in the strategic plan.

Regarding security risk management, we support the attention paid to its improvement, particularly in light of recent tragic events, also when it comes safe program delivery.

As regards human resource management we are content to observe that UNDP is making further progress towards achieving the gender balance target. In our view, however, much remains to be done, and it is clear that at higher levels of management, UNDP is still quite far off in ensuring equal gender representation.

This point brings me to an issue, which is of particular importance to my delegation, namely gender equality and women's empowerment.

We are concerned that the impact of the challenges the global community is currently facing, will have particularly detrimental effects on the situation women, not least in developing countries. In our view it is therefore of utmost importance that UNDP systematically puts into practice its Gender Action Policy. In doing so, specific attention needs to be given to implementing measures which minimize the disproportionately negative effects that the current global challenges have on women.

We therefore welcome the intensified efforts to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into crisis prevention and recovery in line with the lessons learned and the new gender equality strategy.

Although much remains to be done, the UNDP corporate gender equality strategy (2008-2011) will further deepen and strengthen the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into all of the focus areas and, as noted in the report, ensure institutional accountability for realizing those results.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that Iceland continues to regard UNDP as one of its main development partners. Reflecting this, Iceland's contribution to the Program has increased over the past years and will continue to grow in 2009, reflecting a sustained growth in Iceland's Official Development Assistance.

**Ríkjafundur Sameinuðu þjóðanna um baráttu gegn ólöglegum viðskiptum með létt vopn; Ávarp fulltrúa utanríkisráðuneytisins, 16. júlí 2008**

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this meeting and other members of the bureau. We appreciate your excellent work and able preparations by the facilitators for our main items of discussion. Our congratulations go also to the UNODA, in particular for the Implementation Support System that was introduced last Monday.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate Iceland's strong support for the Programme of Action and full implementation of the International Tracing Instrument. I will be brief in my comments. Iceland's implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument is laid out in detail in its national report, which can be accessed on this meeting's website.

As I did not take the floor last Monday, in spite of your gentle encouragement, I hope you will allow me first to make very brief points on our previous items of discussion. On the subject of cooperation, assistance and national capacity building, among the projects Iceland is supporting are the destruction of small arms, munitions and "manpads" in the Ukraine, enhancement of physical security and stockpile management in Afghanistan and an ammunition destruction facility in Jordan.

On illicit brokering, Iceland would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of France on behalf of the European Union. On stockpile management, we can fully support the comments made by the distinguished representative of Norway yesterday. In addition we would like to emphasize the necessity of taking a comprehensive approach to the management of stocks of arms and ammunition.

The importance for all our countries and peoples of making progress in combating the illicit trade in small arms, as well as their ammunition, can hardly be underestimated. It constitutes a threat to human security, human rights and humanitarian law. It threatens peace building efforts and hampers development. In this connection, I would like to recall the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence. We welcome the planned summit review conference planned for this fall. I would also like to recall here the importance of including gender perspectives in our considerations for strengthening the Programme of Action.

Iceland is among those countries that have advocated for the conclusion of binding legal instruments on brokering in small arms and light weapons, as well as on marking and

tracing. This is why we are following closely the preparatory work for an arms trade treaty. Hopefully the necessary elements on small arms can be included in such an instrument. At the same time, we would like to recall the importance of the Protocol on the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. We hope that membership will become universal.

Finally Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasize the importance of enhanced co-operation between all stakeholders, governments, national and local, international as well as regional organizations and civil society, including NGO's and research institutions. We express our appreciation to those Governments and others that have contributed to events on this issue. In particular I would like to draw attention to the successful conference for regional organizations on implementation of the Programme of Action, held in Brussels 28-30 May. I understand that we will be offered a presentation on its conclusions during this week.

Mr. Chairman, please be assured of our delegation's full support for you and the work ahead.

## VI. viðauki: Ályktanir allsherjarþingsins

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/2 61/8	Skýrsla alþjóðakjarnorkumálastofnunarinnar (Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency)	Án atkv.gr.
62/3 61/11	Afnám viðskiptabanns Bandaríkjanna gagnvart Kúbu (Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba)	184-4-1 ☺ ESB ☺
62/4 61/10	Íþróttir og Ólympíuandinn stuðli að friðsælli og betri heimi (Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal)	Án atkv.gr.
62/5	Friður, öryggi og sætti Kóreuskaga (Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula)	Án atkv.gr.
62/6 61/18	Ástandið í Afganistan (The situation in Afghanistan)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/7 61/226	Stuðningur SP við endurreisn lýðræðis (Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/8	Yfirlit yfir aðgerðir SP varðandi loftslagsbreytingar (Overview of UN activities relating to climate change)	Án atkv.gr.
62/9 60/14	Efling alþjóðasamstarfs til að rannsaka og draga úr áhrifum slyssins í Tsjernóbil (Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster)	Án atkv.gr.
62/10	Dagur félagslegs réttlætis (World Day of Social Justice)	Án atkv.gr.
62/11 61/28	Hlutur demanta í ófriði (The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts)	Án atkv.gr.
62/12 61/15	Skýrsla alþjóðasakamáladómstólsins (Report of the International Criminal Court)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/79	Samstarf milli SP og Eurasian Economic Community Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community	Án atkv.gr.
62/80 61/22	Nefnd um óumdeilanleg réttindi Palestínumanna (Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People)	109-8-55 ☺ ESB og Noregur ☺ Kýpur og Malta ☺
62/81 61/23	Sérstök deild fyrir réttindi Palestínufólks á aðalskrifstofu SP. (Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat)	110-8-54 ☺ ESB og Noregur ☺ Kýpur og Malta ☺
62/82	Sérstök upplýsingaáætlun um Palestínu innan	161-8-5 ☺

## Skýrsla um 62. allsherjarþing SP 2007/2008

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
61/24	upplýsingadeildar SP (Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat)	ESB og Noregur ☺
62/83 61/25	Fríðsamleg lausn Palestínamálsins (Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine)	161-7-5 ☺ ESB og Noregur ☺
62/84 61/26	Staða Jerúsalemborgar (Jerusalem)	160-6-7 ☺ ESB og Noregur ☺
62/85 61/27	The Syrian Golan (Gólanhæðir / Síryland)	111-6-56 ☺ ESB og Noregur ☺
62/88 61/272	Yfirlýsing um minningarfund háttsettra um réttindi barna (Declaration on the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children)	Án atkv.gr.
62/89 61/45	Alþjóða áratugur friðarmenningar og gegn ofbeldi fyrir börn heimsins, 2001-2010 (International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010)	Án atkv.gr.
62/90 61/221	Stuðlað að umræðum milli trúarhópa fyrir friði (Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace)	Án atkv.gr.
62/91 61/132	Neyðaraðstoð í kjölfar jarðskjálftans og flóðbylgjunnar í Indlandshafi (Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/92 61/131	Alþjóðlegt samstarf um neyðaraðstoð vegna náttúruhamfara (International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/93 61/135	Aðstoð við Palestínumenn (Assistance to the Palestinian people)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/94 61/134	Styrking og samræming á neyðar- og mannúðaraðstoð á vegum SP (Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/95 61/133	Öryggi starfsfólks SP við neyðarhjálp (Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/96 60/225	Aðstoð við fólk sem lifði af þjóðarmorðin í Rúanda (Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/97	Samóa ekki lengur skilgreint sem vanþróað ríki (LDC) (Graduation of Samoa)	Án atkv.gr.
62/122	Minnisvarði um förnarlömb þrælaverslunarinnar (Permanent Memorial to and Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/177	Sjálfbærar fiskveiðar, m.a. á grundvelli	Án atkv.gr.

Fastanefnd Íslands hjá SP í New York

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
61/105	úthafsveiðisamnings SP (Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments)	Ísl. meðfl.
62/178 60/224	Skipulag fundar um framkvæmd yfirlýsingar og skuldbindinga ríkja í baráttunni gegn alnæmi og eyðni (Organization of the 2008 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS)	Án atkv.gr.
62/179 61/229	Nýtt þróunarsamstarf Afríkurríkja, NEPAD, áfangaskýrsla (New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support)	Án atkv.gr.
62/180 61/228	2001-2010: Aratugur gegn Malaríu í þróunarríkjum, einkum í Afríku (2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa)	Án atkv.gr.
62/212 61/227	Kjörbréf fulltrúa á 62. allsherjarþingi (Credentials of representatives to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly)	Án atkv.gr.
62/213	Hlutverk SP við að stuðla að alheimsreglu (The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order)	Án atkv.gr.
62/124	Heidarstefnumótun SP til aðstoðar fórnarlamba kynferðisafbrotu starfsmanna SP (United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel)	Án atkv.gr.
62/215 61/222	Höfin og hafréttarsamningurinn (Oceans and the law of the sea)	146-2-3 ☺ ESB og Noregur ☺ Ísl. meðfl.
62/242	Skipulag ráðherrafundar um þarfir Afríkurríkja í þróunarsamvinnu (Modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs)	Án atkv.gr.
62/243	Astandið á hernumdum svæðum í Aserbaidsjan (The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/244	Umferðaröryggi (Improving global road safety)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.
62/249	Staða flóttamanna frá Abkhazíu héraði Georgíu (Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia)	Án atkv.gr.
62/270	Alþjóðlegur vettvangur til að ræða flutninga fólks milli landa og þróun (Global Forum on Migration and Development)	Án atkv.gr. 86-2-55 ☺ ESB og Noregur ☺
62/271	Íþróttir í þágu menntunar, heilsu, þróunar og friðar (Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace)	Án atkv.gr. Ísl. meðfl.

## VII. viðauki: Ályktanir 1. nefndar

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/13	Hlutlægar upplýsingar um hernaðarmál, þ.m.t. gagnsæi í hernaðarútgjöldum (Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures)	Ísland meðflytj. Án atkv.gr.
62/14	Framkvæmd yfirlýsingar um Indlandshaf sem friðarsvæði (Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace)	130-3-47 ☉ ESB (25) ☉ Bretl./ Frakkl.☉
62/15	Samningur um kjarnavopnalaust svæði í Afríku (African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty)	Án atkv.gr.
62/16	Efling ráðstafana sem gerðar voru með samningnum um bann við kjarnavopnum í Rómönsku Ameríku og á Karíbahafssvæðinu (Tlatelolco samningurinn) (Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco))	Án atkv.gr.
62/17	Þróun á sviði upplýsinga og fjarskipta í tengslum við alþjóðlegt öryggi og afvopnun (Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security)	179-1-0 ☉ ESB (27) ☉
62/18	Kjarnavopnalaust svæði í Mið-Austurlöndum (Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East)	Án atkv.gr.
62/19	Alþjóðlegar ráðstafanir til að tryggja kjarnavopnalaus ríki gegn beitingu eða hótunum um beitingu kjarnavopna (Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons)	121-1-56 ☉ ESB (27) ☉
62/20	Aðgerðir til að koma í veg fyrir vígbúnaðarkapphlaup í geimnum. (Prevention of an arms race in outer space)	178-1-1 ☉ ESB (27) ☉
62/21	Eftirlit með framkvæmd allra þátta afvopnarsamninga, þ.á.m. hlutverk Sameinuðu þjóðanna við eftirlit (Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification)	Án atkv.gr.
62/22	Aðstoð við ríki til að setja skorður við ólöglegum viðskiptum með handvopn og gera þau upptæk (Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them)	Án atkv.gr.
62/23	Framkvæmd samningsins um bann við þróun, framleiðslu, söfnun og notkun efnavopna og um eyðingu þeirra (Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction)	Án atkv.gr.
62/24	Eftirfylgni skyldna um kjarnorkuafvopnun sem samþykktar voru á endurkoðunarráðstefnum	109-55-15☉ ESB (27)☉

Fastanefnd Íslands hjá SP í New York

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
	aðildarríkja samnings um að dreifa ekki kjarnavopnum, sem haldnar voru árin 1995 og 2000 (Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)	Atkv. um 6. mgr. í formála: 114-50-10⊗ ESB (27) ⊗
62/25	Í átt að kjarnavopnalausum heimi: Efling á framkvæmd skuldbindinga á sviði afvopunar kjarnavopna (Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments)	Ályktun í heild 156-5-14 ⊗ ESB (20) ⊗ Frakkl. ⊗ Bretl./ Grikkland/ Ungverjal./ Lettland/ Pólland/ Slóvenía⊗ Atkvæði um 6. mgr. í formála: 165-4-2⊗ ESB (27)⊗
62/26	Landsréttarlöggjöf um flutning vopna, herbúnaðar og hluta og tækni sem má nota í tvíþættum tilgangi (National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology)	Án atkv.gr.
62/27	Efling fjölþjóðasamstarfs í afvopnunarmálum og gegn útbreiðslu vopna (Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation)	123-6-51 ⊗ ESB (27) ⊗ Bretland ⊗
62/28	Virðing umhverfisverndarstaðla við gerð og framkvæmd samninga um afvopnun og takmörkun vígbúnaðar (Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control)	175-1-3 ⊗ ESB(26) ⊗ Bretl. ⊗
62/29	Boðun fjórða aukaallsherjarþingsins um afvopnunarmál. (Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament)	179-1-1 ⊗ ESB (27) ⊗
62/30	Áhrif notkunar brynvarna og skotfæra sem innihalda eytt úraníum (Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium)	136-5-36⊗ ESB(19)⊗ Austurríki/ Kýpur/ Þýskaland/ Írland/ Ítalía⊗ Bretland/ Tékkland/ Holland⊗
62/31	Samningur um kjarnavopnalaus svæði í Suð-Austur Asíu (Bangkok samningurinn) (Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free	174-1-5⊗ ESB(25)⊗ Frakkl/



## Skýrsla um 62. allsherjarþing Sp 2007/2008

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
	Zone (Bangkok Treaty)	Bretland☉
62/32	Takmörkun hættu af völdum kjarnavopna (Reducing nuclear danger)	117-52-12 ☉ ESB (27) ☉
62/33	Aðgerðir til að koma í veg fyrir að hryðjuverkamenn fái gjöreyðingarvopn í hendur (Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction)	Án atkv.gr.
62/34	Bann við að henda geislavirkum úrgangi (Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes)	Án atkv.gr.
62/35	Kjarnavopnalaust suðurhvel og nærliggjandi svæði. (Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas)	Ályktun í heild: 169-3-8☉ ESB (25)☉ Frakkl./ Bretland☉ síðustu þrjú orðin í 6. mgr. 163-1-9 ☉ ESB (25)☉ Frakkl./ Bretland☉ 6. mgr. í heild sinni: 163-1-8 ☉ ESB (25) ☉ Frakkl./ Bretland☉
62/36	Lækkun viðbragðsstigs kjarnavopnakerfa (Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems)	139-3-36☉ ESB (10)☉ ESB (15) ☉ Frakkl./ Bretland☉
62/37	Endanleg útrýming kjarnavopna. (Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons)	Ísland meðfl. 170-3-9 ☉ ESB (26) ☉ Frakkl.☉
62/38	Svæðisbundin afvopnun. (Regional disarmament)	Án atkv.gr.
62/39	Eftirfylgni ráðgefandi álits alþjóðadómstólsins um lögmati þess að beita eða hóta að beita kjarnavopnum (Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the <i>Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons</i> )	127-27-27☉ ESB (18)☉ Austurríki/ Búlgaría/ Írland/ Malta/ Svíþjóð☉ Kýpur/ Eistland/ Finnland/ Rúmenía☉
62/40	Varnir gegn ólöglegum flutningum og óheimilum aðgangi og notkun á loftvarnarkerfum sem menn geta borið	Án atkv.gr.

Fastanefnd Íslands hjá SP í New York

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
	(Prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems)	
62/41	Framkvæmd samningsins um bann við notkun, birgðasöfnun, framleiðslu og flutningi jarðsprengna gegn liðsafla og um eyðingu þeirra (Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction)	Ísland meðfl. 164-0-18 ☺ ESB (27)☺
62/42	Afvoðun kjarnavopna (Nuclear disarmament)	117-47-17 ☺ ESB (23) ☺ Austurríki/ Írl./Malta/ Svíþjóð ☺
62/43	Gagnsæi og traustvekjandi aðgerðir varðandi verkefni í himingeimnum (Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities)	179-1-1 ☺ ESB (27) ☺
62/44	Vopnaeftirlit í svæðisbundnu samstarfi (Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels)	177-1-1 ☺ ESB (27)☺
62/45	Traustvekjandi aðgerðir (Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context)	Án atkv.gr.
62/46	Hindrun á að hryðjuverkamenn komist yfir geislavirk efni (Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources)	Án atkv.gr.
62/47	Ólögleg viðskipti með handvopn. (The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects)	Ísland meðfl. 179-1-0 ☺ ESB (27) ☺
62/48	Tengsl afvoðunar og þróunar (Relationship between disarmament and development)	179-1-2 ☺ ESB (26) ☺ Frakkl.☺
62/49	Svæðisskrifstofa Sameinuðu þjóðanna fyrir friði, afvoðun og þróun í Mið- og Suður-Ameríku og Karíbahafi (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean)	Án atkv.gr.
62/50	Svæðisskrifstofur Sameinuðu þjóðanna fyrir frið og afvoðun (United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament)	Án atkv.gr.
62/51	Samningurinn um bann við notkun kjarnavopna (Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons)	120-52-10 ☺ ESB (27) ☺
62/52	Svæðisskrifstofa Sameinuðu þjóðanna fyrir frið og afvoðun í Asíu og á Kyrrahafssvæðinu (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific)	Án atkv.gr.
62/53	Svæðisbundnar traustvekjandi aðgerðir: Ráðgefandi nefnd SP um öryggismál í Mið-Afríku	Án atkv.gr.

## Skýrsla um 62. allsherjarþing SP 2007/2008

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
	(Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa)	
62/54	Skýrsla afvopnunarnefndar (Report of the Disarmament Commission)	Án atkv.gr.
62/55	Skýrsla afvopnunarráðstefnunnar (Report of the Conference on Disarmament)	Án atkv.gr.
62/56	Hætta á útbreiðslu kjarnavopna í Mið-Austurlöndum (The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East)	Ályktun í heild: 170-5-7 ☺ ESB (27) ☺ PP6: 166-3-6 ☺ ESB (27) ☺
62/57	Samningur um bann við hefðbundnum vopnum sem valdið geta ódæma þjáningum (Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv.gr.
62/58	Styrking öryggis og samvinna á Miðjarðarhafssvæðinu (Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv.gr.
62/59	Samningurinn um bann við kjarnavopnatilraunum (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty)	Ísland meðfl. 176-1-4 ☺ ESB (27)☺
62/60	Framkvæmd samningsins um bann við þróun, framleiðslu og söfnun sýkla- og eiturvopna og um eyðingu þeirra (Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction)	Án atkv.gr.
62/216	Svæðisskrifstofa Sameinuðu þjóðanna fyrir frið og afvopnun í Afríku. (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa)	150-0-5☺ ESB (26)☺ Bretland☺
Ákvörðun 62/512	Review of the implementation of the declaration on the strengthening of International security	Án atkv.gr.
Ákvörðun 62/513	Ráðstefna Sameinuðu þjóðanna til að leita viðeigandi leiða til að koma megi í veg fyrir hættu af völdum kjarnorku í sambandi við afvopnun kjarnavopna (United Nations Conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament)	133-3-43☺ ESB(21)☺ Frakkl/ Bretland☺ Kýpur/Írl./ Malta/ Svíþjóð☺
Ákvörðun 62/514	Flugskeyti Missiles	123-7-51☺ ESB(23)☺ Danmörk/ Frakkl./ Holland/ Bretl.☺

## VIII. viðauki: Ályktanir 2. nefndar

Nr.	Heiti	Afgreitt
62/86	Vernd loftslagsins fyrir mannkynið (Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind)	10/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/98	Skógar. (Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests)	17/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/181	Endanlegur yfirláðaréttur Palestínanna yfir hernumdu palestínsku landssvæði, þ.á m. Jerúsalem, og yfirláðaréttur Araba á hinum hernumda sýrlenska hluta Gólanhæða yfir náttúrulegum auðlindum (Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources)	19/12 166-7-6 ☉ ESB ☉
62/182	Upplýsinga og fjarskiptatækni í þágu þróunar (Information and communication technologies for development)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/183	Einhliða efnahagslegar refsiaðgerðir gegn þróunarríkjum (Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries)	2/12 128-2-51 ☉ ESB ☉
62/184	Alþjóðaviðskipti og þróun (International trade and development)	19/12 126-48-7 ☉ ESB 25 ☉
62/185	Alþjóðlegt fjármálakerfi og þróun (International Financial System and Development)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/186	Aukin alþjóðasamvinna til að leysa erlenda skuldabyrði þróunarríkja (External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/187	Framkvæmd og eftirfylgni við niðurstöðu alþjóðlegrar ráðstefnu um öflun fjár til þróunarmála (Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/188	Olíumengun við strendur Líbanon (Oil slick on Lebanese shores)	22/11 169-8-3 ☉ ESB ☉
62/189	Framkvæmd Dagskrár 21 og niðurstaða leiðtogafundarinnar um sjálfbæra þróun (Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/190	Tækni í landbúnaði í þágu þróunar (Agricultural technology for development)	8/12 147-0-30 ☉

## Skýrsla um 62. allsherjarþing SP 2007/2008

Nr.	Heiti	Afgreitt
62/191	Framkvæmdaáætlun um sjálfbæra þróun þróunarrikja á smáeyjum (Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/192	Alþjóðlegar aðgerðir gegn afleiðingum náttúruhamfara (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/193	Framkvæmd samnings SP um baráttuna gegn eyðimerkurmyndun í ríkjum sem glíma við alvarlegan þurrk og/eða eyðimerkurmyndun, sérstaklega í Afríku (Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/194	Samningur um fjölbreytni lífríkisins (Convention on Biological Diversity)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/195	Skýrsla UNEP um níunda þing sitt (Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its ninth special session)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/196	Sjálbær þróun í fjöllum (Sustainable mountain development)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/197	Nýjir og endurnýjanlegir orkugjafar (Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/198	Framkvæmd niðurstöðu ráðstefnu SP um byggðaaætlun SP (Habitat-II) og styrking á hlutverki búsetunefndar SP (UN-Habitat) (Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the Twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/199	Hnattvæðingu og samvirkni (Globalization and interdependence)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/200	Alþjóðlegt ár stjarnvísinda, 2009 (International Year of Astronomy, 2009)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
60/201	Vísindi og tækni í þágu þróunar (Science and technology for development)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/202	Hindrun peningaþvættis og flutninga illa fengins fjár (Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/203	Þriðja ráðstefna SP um fátækustu ríkin (Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/204	Sérstakar þarfir landluktra þróunarrikja innan / skv. hnattrænni rammaáætlun um vöruflutninga um slík ríki. (Groups of countries in special situations: specific	19/12 Án atkv.gr.

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Nr.	Heiti	Afgreitt
	actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation)	
62/205	Baráttan gegn fátækt og önnur þróunarmál: Konur og þróun (Eradication of pverty and other development issues: women in development)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/206	Konur og þróun (Women in development)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/207	Efling mannaúds í þágu þróunar (Human resources development)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/208	Aðgerðir stofnana Sameinuðu þjóðanna í þróunarmálum; endurmat stefnumörkunar á þriggja ára fresti (Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for develoment of the United Nations system)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/209	Suður-suður samvinna (South-South cooperation)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/210	Þjálfunar- og rannsóknarstofnun SP (Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.
62/211	Alheimssamvinna (Towards global partnerships)	19/12 Án atkv.gr.

**IX. viðauki: Ályktanir 3. nefndar**

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/123 61/136	Fjölgun í framkvæmdanefnd Flóttamannastofnunar Sameinuðu Þjóðanna (Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)	Án atkv. gr.
62/124 61/137	Skrifstofa Flóttamannafulltrúa Sameinuðu Þjóðanna (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/125 61/139	Aðstoð við flóttamenn í Afríku (Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/126 59/148	Stefnumörkun í málefnum ungs fólks (policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy – promoting youth participation in social and economic development)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/127 60/131	Framkvæmd framkvæmdaáætlunar Sp varðandi fatlaða (Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/128 60/132	Samvinna um félagslega þróun (Cooperatives in Social Development)	Án atkv. gr.
62/129 60/133	Eftirfylgni vegna tíu ára afmælis alþjóðlegs árs fjölskyldunnar (Follow up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond)	Án atkv. gr.
62/130 61/142	Eftirfylgni vegna 2. alþjóðþings um málefni aldraðra (Follow-up on the Second World Assembly on Ageing)	Án atkv. gr.
62/131 61/141	Framkvæmd niðurstaðna leiðtogafundar um félagslega þróun og 24. allsherjarþings Sp (Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/132 60/139	Ofbeldi gegn farandverkakönnum (Violence against women migrant workers)	Án atkv. gr.
62/133 61/143	Efling aðgerða til að afnema allt ofbeldi gagnvart konum (Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/134	Uppræting nauðgana og kynferðislegs obeldis í vopnuðum átökum (Eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/135 60/137	Þróunarsjóður Sp í þágu kvenna (United Nations Development Fund for Women)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/136 60/138	Aðstoð við konur í dreifbýli (Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas)	Án atkv. gr.
62/137 61/145	Eftirfylgni við Peking-yfirlýsinguna og framkvæmdaáætlunina og niðurstaðna 23.	Án atkv. gr.

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Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
	aukaallsherjarþings SP (Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly)	
62/138	Aðgerðir til að vinna bug á fistúlu (Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/139	Alþjóðlegur dagur einhverfra (World Autism Awareness Day)	Án atkv. gr.
62/140 60/141	Stúlkubarnið (The girl child)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/141 61/146	Réttindi barnsins (Rights of the Child)	Ísland meðfl. 183-1-0 ☉ US ☉
62/142 61/147	Andstaða gegn aðgerðum sem ýtt geta undir fordóma (Inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance)	130-2-53 ☉ ESB ☉ NL ☉ US ☉
62/143	Skýrsla Mannréttindaráðs SP vegna undirbúnings Durban ráðstefnunnar (Report of the Human Rights Council on the preparations for the Durban Review Conference)	177-3-3 ☉
62/144 61/150	Viðurkenning á rétti þjóða til sjálfsákvörðunar (Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/145 61/151	Notkun málaliða (Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination)	127-52-6 ☉ ESB ☉ NL ☉ US ☉
62/146 61/152	Réttur palestínsku þjóðarinnar til sjálfsákvörðunar (The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination)	Ísland meðfl. 176-5-4 ☉ ESB ☉
62/147 60/149	Mannréttindasamningar SP (International Covenants on Human Rights)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/148 61/153	Pyntingar og önnur vanvirðandi meðferð eða refsingar (Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/149	Afnám dauðarefsinga (Moratorium on the use of the death penalty)	Ísland meðfl. ☉ 104-54-29
62/150 60/162	Aðstoð SP við reglubundnar og trúverðugar kosningar (Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and promotion of democratization)	Ísl. meðfl. 182-0-2 ☉
62/151 61/156	Alþjóðavæðing og áhrif hennar á öll mannréttindi (Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights)	129-54-4 ☉ ESB ☉ NL ☉ US ☉



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Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/152 60/161	Yfirlýsing um réttindi og skyldur einstaklinga og þjóðfélagshópa sem vinna að eflingu og vernd mannréttinda (Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/153 60/168	Vernd og aðstoð til fólks á vergangi (Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/154 61/164	Barátta gegn ærumeiðingum vegna trúarbragða (Combating defamation of religions)	108-51-25 ⊗ ESB ⊗ NL ⊗ US ⊗
62/155 60/67	Mannréttindi og menningarleg fjölbreytni (Human rights and cultural diversity)	Án atkv. gr.
62/156 61/165	Vernd farandfólks (Protection of migrants)	Án atkv. gr.
62/157 61/161	Útrýming alls umburðarleysis vegna trúar (Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/158	Mannréttindi og réttarkerfi (Human rights in the administration of justice)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/159 61/171	Verndun mannréttinda í baráttunni gegn hryðjuverkum (Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism)	Ísl.meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/160 61/168	Styrking alþjóðlegrar samvinnu á sviði mannréttindamála (Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights)	Án atkv. gr.
62/161 61/169	Rétturinn til þróunar (The right to development)	136-53-0 ⊗ ESB ⊗ NL ⊗ US ⊗
62/162 61/170	Mannréttindi og einhliða þvingunaraðgerðir (Human rights and unilateral coercive measures)	132-54-0 ⊗ ESB ⊗ NL ⊗ US ⊗
62/163 60/163	Réttur til friðar (Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all)	126-54-6 ⊗ ESB ⊗ NL ⊗ US ⊗
62/164 61/163	Rétturinn til matar (The right to food)	186-1-1 ⊗ ESB ⊗ US ⊗
62/165	Styrking aðgerða SP á sviði mannréttinda með eflingu alþjóðasamvinnu (Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity impartiality and objectivity)	Án atkv. gr.
62/166	Virðing fyrir grundvallarreglum í stofnsáttmála SP á	Án atkv. gr.

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Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
	sviði mannréttinda (Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms)	
62/167 61/174	Ástand mannréttinda í Norður-Kóreu (Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea)	Ísland meðfl. 101-22-59 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/168 61/176	Ástand mannréttinda í Íran (Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran)	Ísland meðfl. 73-53-55 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/169 61/175	Ástand mannréttinda í Hvíta-Rússlandi (Situation of human rights in Belarus)	Ísland meðfl. 72-33-78 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/170	Alþjóðsamningur SP um réttindi fatlaðra (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/171	Alþjóðlegt ár mannréttindanáms (International Year of Human Rights Learning)	Án atkv. gr.
62/172	Tæknileg aðstoð SP vegna vegna innleiðingu alþjóðasamninga á sviði hryðjuverkavarna (Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism)	Án atkv. gr.
62/173	Eftirfylgni vegna elleftu ráðstefnu SP um afbrotavarnir og undirbúningi þeirrar tólfu (Follow up to the eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice)	Án atkv. gr.
62/174 61/182	Afrikustofnun til að sporna við glæpum og meðferð sakamanna (United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/175 61/181	Styrking SP í afbrotavörnum og meðferð sakamála, aðallega tæknilegri samvinnu (Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/176 61/183	Alþjóðleg samvinna gegn misnotkun, framleiðslu og viðskiptum með eiturlýf (International cooperation against the world drug problem)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/218	Alþjóðasamningur um afnám alls misréttis gagnvart konum, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination)	Ísland meðfl. 154-1-0 ☺ US ☺

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Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
	against Women)	
62/219	Skýrsla mannréttindaráðsins (HRC) Report of the Human Rights Council	150-7-1 ☺
62/220 61/149	Aðgerðir í baráttunni gegn kynþáttafordómum, kynþáttamisrétti, útlendingahatri ofl. – eftirfylgni alþjóðaráðstefnunnar í Durban (Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action)	105-46-6 ☺ ESB ☺
62/221 61/158	Svæðamiðstöð fyrir mannréttindi og lýðræði í Mið-Afríku (Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in central Africa)	Án atkv.gr.
61/222	Ástand mannréttinda í Mjanmar (Situation of human rights in Myanmar)	Ísland meðfl. 83-22-47 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺

**X. viðauki: Ályktanir 4. nefndar**

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/99 60/97	Aðstoð á sviði eyðingar jarðsprengna (Assistance in mine action)	Án atkv. gr.
62/100 60/98	Ahrif kjarnageislunar (Effects of atomic radiation)	Ísland meðfl. Án atkv. gr.
62/101	Efling upplýsingasöfnunar og samvinnu ríkja og stofnana á sviði geimferða (Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects)	Án atkv. gr.
62/102 61/112	Aðstoð við Palestínuflóttafólk, UNRWA (Assistance to Palestine refugees)	171-2-6 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/103 61/113	Flóttafólk vegna sex daga-stríðsins 1967 (Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities)	171-6-2 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/104 61/114	Aðstoð UNRWA við Palestínuflóttafólk í Mið-Austurlöndum (Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)	Ísland meðfl. 170-6-3 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/105 61/115	Eignir og tekjur Palestínuflóttafólks (Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues)	170-6-3 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/106 61/116	Skýrsla sérstöku rannsóknarnefndarinnar um ísraelsk mannréttindabrot á hernumdu svæðunum (Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories)	93-8-74 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/107 61/117	Gildi Genfarsamningsins (IV) um óbreytta borgara á stríðstímum á hernumdu svæðunum (Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories)	169-6-3 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/108 61/118	Landnemabyggðir Ísraelsmanna á hernumdu svæðunum (Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan)	165-7-5 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/109 61/119	Aðgerðir Ísraelsmanna, sem hafa áhrif á mannréttindi Palestínumanna (Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem)	156-7-11 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺

## Skýrsla um 62. allsherjarþing SP 2007/2008

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/110 61/120	Hernumdar Gólanhæðir (The occupied Syrian Golan)	164-1-10 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺ US ☺
62/111 61/121	Upplýsingamiðlun SP A. Upplýsingamiðlun í þágu mannúðar. B. Stefna og starfsemi SP í upplýsingamiðlun. (Questions relating to information A. Information in the service of humanity B. United Nations public information policies and activities)	Án atkv. gr.
62/112 61/122	Upplýsingar frá nýlendusvæðunum skv. 73. gr. sáttmála Sameinuðu þjóðanna (Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations)	176-0-4 ☺
62/113 61/123	Áhrif erlendra hagsmuna á nýlendusvæði (Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories)	176-2-2 ☺
62/114 61/130	Framkvæmd undirstofnana SP á yfirlýsingu um sjálfstæði nýlendna (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations)	124-0-54 ☺ ESB ☺ NL ☺
62/115 61/124	Tilboð aðildarríkja SP um nám og þjálfunaraðstöðu fyrir íbúa nýlendusvæða (Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories)	Án atkv. gr.
62/116 61/125	Málefni Vestur-Sahara (Question of Western Sahara)	Án atkv. gr.
62/117 61/126	Málefni Nýju Kaledóníu (Question of New Caledonia)	Án atkv. gr.
62/118 61/128	Almennt um málefni Amerísku Samóa-eyja og fleiri smáeyja (Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands)	Án atkv. gr.
62/119 61/129	Miðlun upplýsinga um nýlendusvæði (Dissemination of information on decolonization)	175-2-2 ☺
62/120 61/231	Framkvæmd yfirlýsingarinnar um sjálfstæði nýlendna (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples )	176-2-2 ☺
62/121 61/127	Málefni Tókelá (Question of Tokelau)	Án atkv. gr.
62/216 60/99	Fríðsamleg nýting himingeimsins (International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space)	Án atkv. gr.

**XI. viðauki: Ályktanir 5. nefndar**

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/2	Framlagaskali SP: beiðnir samkv. 19. gr. Sáttmála SP (Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter )	Án atkv.gr.
62/87	Endurbætur á höfuðstöðvum SP í New York (Capital master plan)	Án atkv.gr.
62/223A	Fjárhagsskýrslur og endurskoðaðir ársreikningar og skýrslur endurskoðenda. (Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors)	Án atkv.gr.
62/223B	Fjárhagsskýrslur og endurskoðaðir ársreikningar og skýrslur endurskoðenda. (Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors)	Án atkv.gr.
62/224	Áætlanargerð (Programme Planning)	Án atkv.gr.
62/225	Þinghald og ráðstefnur (Pattern of Conferences)	Án atkv.gr.
62/226	Sameiginlega matsnefndin (Joint Inspection Unit)	Án atkv.gr.
62/227	Sameiginlega kerfi SP. skýrsla stofnunnar alþjóðlegra opinberra starfsmanna (United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission)	Án atkv.gr.
62/228	Réttarframkvæmd hjá SP (Administration of justice at the United Nations)	Án atkv.gr.
62/229	Fjármögnun stríðsglæpadómstóls fyrir Rúanda (Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994)	Án atkv.gr.
62/230	Fjármögnun stríðsglæpadómstóls fyrir fyrrum Júgóslavíu (Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991)	Án atkv.gr.
62/231	Fjármögnun birgðastöðva SP í Brindísí á Ítalíu (Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy)	Án atkv.gr.
62/232A	Fjármögnun sameiginlegrar friðagæslusveitar SP og Afrikusambandsins í Darfúr (Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur)	Án atkv.gr.

## Skýrsla um 62. allsherjarþing SP 2007/2008

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/232B	Fjármögnun sameiginlegrar friðargæslusveitar SP og Afríkusambandsins í Darfúr (Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur)	Án atkv.gr.
62/233A	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP í Mið-Afríkulýðveldinu og Tsjad (Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad)	Án atkv.gr.
62/233B	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP í Mið-Afríkulýðveldinu og Tsjad (Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad)	Án atkv.gr.
62/234	Skýrsla innra eftirlits SP og fjármögnun vinnuhóps um útboðsreglur (Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and financing of the Procurement Task Force)	Án atkv.gr.
62/235 A-B	Fjárlög 2006-2007 A. Lokafjárlagaúthlutanir fyrir 2006-2007 B. Endanlegar tekjur 2006-2007 (Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 A. Final budget appropriations for the biennium 2006-2007 B. Final income estimates for the biennium 2006-2007)	Án atkv.gr.
62/236	Fjárlög SP 2008-2009 (Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009)	142-1-0 ☺ BNA ☺
62/237 A-C	Fjárlög SP 2008-2009 (Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009)	Án atkv.gr.
62/238	Sérstök atriði er varða fjárlög SP 2008-2009 (Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009)	Án atkv.gr.
62/239	Ófyrirsjáanleg og sérstök fjárútlát SP 2008-2009 (Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2008-2009)	Án atkv.gr.
62/240	Vinnufjármagnssjóður SP 2008-2009 (Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2008-2009)	Án atkv.gr.
62/241	Álitaefni er varða eftirlaunasjóð SP (Questions related to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund)	140-1-1 ☺ BNA ☺ Kanada ☺
62/245	Sérstök álitaefni er varða fjárlög SP 2008-2009 (Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009)	Án atkv.gr.
62/246	Ársskýrsla sameiginlegu matsnefndarinnar fyrir árið 2007 og verkefnaáætlun fyrir 2008 (Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2007 and programme of work for 2008)	Án atkv.gr.
62/247	Styrking rannsókna (Strengthening investigations)	Án atkv.gr.
62/248	Mannauðsstjórnun SP (Human resources management)	Án atkv.gr.
62/250	Fjármögning á kostnaði við stuðning við friðargæslusveitir SP (Support account for peacekeeping operations)	Án atkv.gr.

Fastanefnd Íslands hjá SP í New York

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
62/251	Fjármögnun birgðastöðva SP í Brindísí á Ítalíu (Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy)	Án atkv.gr.
62/252	Endurskoðaðar reglur við greiðslur til aðildarríkja fyrir framlög til friðargæslusveita í formi tækjabúnaðar og mannafla (Reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment)	Án atkv.gr.
62/23	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP í Búrúndí (Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi)	Án atkv.gr.
62/254	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP á Filabeinsströndinni (Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire)	Án atkv.gr.
62/255	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP á Kýpur (Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus)	Án atkv.gr.
62/256	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP í Austur-Kongó (Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo)	Án atkv.gr.
62/257	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP á Austur-Tímor (Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor)	Án atkv.gr.
62/258	Fjármögnun sameiginlegrar friðargæslusveitar SP á Austur-Tímor (Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste)	Án atkv.gr.
62/259	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP í Eþíópíu og Erítreu (Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea)	Án atkv.gr.
62/260	Fjármögnun eftirlitssveitar SP í Georgíu (Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia)	Án atkv.gr.
62/261	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP á Haítí (Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti)	Án atkv.gr.
62/262	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP í Kósóvó (Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo)	Án atkv.gr.
62/263	Fjármögnun friðargæslusveitar SP í Líberíu (Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia)	Án atkv.gr.
62/264	Eftirlitssveit SP (Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force)	Án atkv.gr.
62/265	Friðargæslusveit SP í Líbanon (Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon)	142-2-1 ☺ BNA ☺ Ísrael ☺ Kanada ☺
62/266	Friðargæslusveit SP í Sierra Leónu (Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone)	Án atkv.gr.
62/267	Friðargæslusveit SP í Súdan	Án atkv.gr.



## Skýrsla um 62. allsherjarþing SP 2007/2008

Nr.	Ályktun	Atkvæði
	(Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan)	
62/268	Eftirlitsveit SP í Vestur-Sahara (Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara)	Án atkv. gr.
62/269	Enduskoðun á útboðsreglum SP (Procurement reform)	Án atkv. gr.

## XII. viðauki: Ályktanir 6. nefndar

Nr.	Ályktun
62/61	Ábyrgð ríkja vegna alþjóðlega rangra aðgerða (Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts)
62/62	Áætlun Sameinuðu þjóðanna um aðstoð við kennslu, nám útbreiðslu og viðtækari velþóknun á alþjóðalögum (United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law)
62/63	Refsiábyrgð embættismanna SP og sérfræðinga í sendinefndum (Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission)
62/64	Skýrsla viðskiptalaganefndar SP um starf nefndarinnar í 40. fundalotu hennar (Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fortieth session)
62/65	Fimmtíu ára afmæli Sáttmála um viðurkenningu og framkvæmd erlendra gerðardóma, sem gerður var í New York 10. júní 1958 (Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, done at New York, 10 June 1958)
62/66	Skýrsla alþjóðlegu laganeftarinnar um 59. fundalotu hennar (Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-ninth session)
62/67	Diplómatísk vernd (Diplomatic protection)
62/68	Athugunarefni varðandi hindrun skaða yfir landamæri frá hættulegum aðgerðum og dreifing tjóns við slíkar aðstæður (Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm)
62/69	Skýrsla sérstakrar nefndar um sáttmála SP og um eflingu hlutverks samtakanna (Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization)
62/70	Gildi réttarins á landsstigi og á alþjóðavettvangi (The rule of law at the national and international levels)
62/71	Aðgerðir til að útrýma alþjóðlegum hryðjuverkum (Measures to eliminate international terrorism)
62/72	Skýrsla gistiríkisnefndar SP (Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country)
62/73	Áheyrnarfulltrúastaða fyrir Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States í allsherjarþinginu (Observer status for the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States in the General Assembly)
62/74	Áheyrnarfulltrúastaða fyrir Italian-Latin American Institute í allsherjarþinginu (Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly)
62/75	Áheyrnarfulltrúastaða fyrir Energy Charter Conference í

Nr.	Ályktun
	allsherjarþinginu (Observer status for the Energy Charter Conference in the General Assembly)
62/76	Áheyrnarfulltrúastaða fyrir Eurasian Development Bank í allsherjarþinginu (Observer status for the Eurasian Development Bank in the General Assembly)
62/77	Áheyrnarfulltrúastaða fyrir Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia í allsherjarþinginu (Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia in the General Assembly)
62/78	Áheyrnarfulltrúastaða fyrir Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf í allsherjarþinginu (Observer status for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in the General Assembly)