



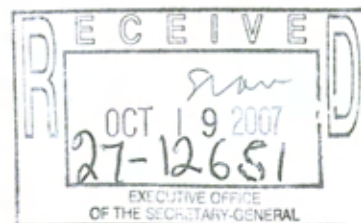
THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

opened by IK on 19/10

GA

18 October 2007

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Excellency,

Yesterday I convened an informal plenary meeting to present Member States with some ideas on the way forward on mandate review. A paper containing my proposals is attached to this letter. I also informed the membership that Ambassador Kaire Mbuende of Namibia and Ambassador Rosemary Banks of New Zealand have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs.

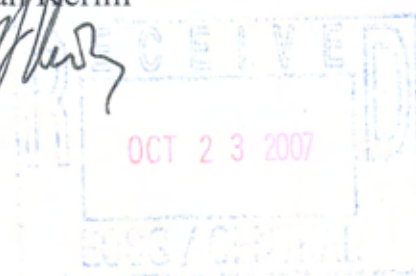
As Member States have pointed out, the Secretariat plays a crucial role in mandates review. And I believe that your close cooperation will be a key element for moving the process forward.

In this regard, I would be grateful if you could provide the Co-Chairs with all the necessary assistance, i.e. material and human resources, to support this important reform process.

Excellency, I trust that with your engagement we can make concrete progress on this important item of the reform agenda.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Srgjan Kerim



H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations



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The Way forward on Mandate Review

- The following elements are proposed as parameters for the continuation of the mandate review process:
 - The review of mandates should be extended to all General Assembly mandates older than five years, including those that have been renewed;
 - The Working Group should report on results and submit proposals with regard to the current review by the end of July 2008;
 - A process should be established which allows for a more systematic input of expertise from main committees and from within the UN system, including from regional organizations;
 - The Working Group would provide regular briefings, organized by the President of the General Assembly, on progress achieved;
 - The review of mandates should be guided by the following principles:
 - (a) The main objective of the review is to strengthen the UN, to update its programme of work and to improve the effective and efficient allocation of scarce resources.
 - (b) Resources freed up from a review of development-related mandates should be reinvested into development activities; other savings should be optimally utilized, including for development;
 - (c) Politically sensitive mandates will be approached with caution and with due respect to the perspectives of those Member States whose interests are directly engaged;
 - All issue areas should be reviewed and gaps identified and duplications eliminated in the implementation of mandates identified. The sequence of the issue areas to be addressed should be agreed upon according to established practice, taking into account previous contributions by the Secretariat.
 - The Secretariat plays a crucial role in mandates review and its continued support will be essential. The mandate registry should be maintained and strengthened for the ongoing review of mandates.