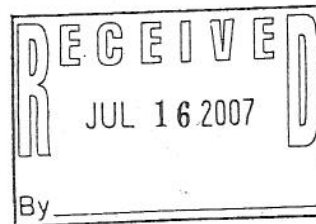


Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia  
to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Ireland  
to the United Nations

H.E Ms Haya Rashed Al Khalifa  
President of the General Assembly  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017



16 July 2007

Dear President,

As the 61st session of the General Assembly approaches its close we considered it appropriate to update you on the situation regarding the Mandate Review process.

Following the appointment of Ambassador Mbuende of Namibia as co-chair, which allowed for the resumption of the process, we convened a meeting of the informal Plenary at which it was decided that the informal working group should continue its consideration of mandates older than five year and renewed under thematic clusters.

The informal Working Group subsequently met three times to consider mandates in the thematic cluster; drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism. Information has been requested and received from the Secretariat including on individual mandates and to date no specific proposals to adjust specific mandates have been received.

As you are aware, the remit of the mandate review exercise is due to expire at the close of the current session of the General Assembly. We attach the report of the informal working group agreed last December to remind Member States of the agreements reached in relation to mandates older than five year and not renewed. In terms of the mandates older than five year which have been renewed, we note that the only one of the ten cluster areas has been addressed thus far and that the exercise overall is far from complete. Any decision to continue the process is, of course, one for Member States, under the guidance of the President of the General Assembly, but we as co-chairs have the following reflections to offer.

It is our considered view that a mandate review exercise has the potential to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of UN activities to the benefit of all Member States. In order to achieve this, we consider it desirable to expand the engagement of relevant experts from the both the Member States and the Secretariat. For a review of mandates in the General Assembly's various areas of activity to be truly informed, we consider the input of Member States' experts to be essential. At the same time, while decisions in relation to the establishment, revision or termination of mandates remain the exclusive prerogative of the Member States acting within the General Assembly,

the Secretariat has a unique perspective on the implementation of the mandates and the existence of overlap and duplication.

Member States might wish to consider these points, including any resource implications, in the context of any consideration of how and where to carry forward mandate review.

Finally, Madam President, we wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks to you and your Office, to all Member States, and to the Secretariat for the help and support extended to us as co-chairs throughout this process.

Yours sincerely,



Kaire Mbuende



David Cooney