

## Mandate review

3<sup>rd</sup> informal consultations of the plenary

Tuesday, 25 April 2006

### Co-Chairmen's opening statement

- Many delegations have inquired how the other principal organs would conduct the review of their mandates.
- According to the Summit Outcome Documents, “the General Assembly and other relevant organs” should review all mandates older than 5 years “originating from resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs”. It is clear from this decision that each organ is required to review mandates originating from its own resolutions.
- The Presidents of General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC met on 20 April 2006 to discuss this matter. It was felt that it would be important for the General Assembly, ECOSOC and Security Council to coordinate and cohere their programmes or work on review of mandates.
- The Security Council has set up an ad hoc working group, while ECOSOC will be initiating the process soon
- It would also be useful to follow some uniform guidelines. The debate held thus far shows that the Member States seem to agree on the following guidelines for the conduct of this exercise:
  - i) The Mandate Review should not be a cost-cutting exercise.
  - ii) The objective is to strengthen and update UN's programme of work
  - iii) The review should be conducted through an open, transparent and inclusive process.
  - iv) Review of mandates is an inter-governmental exercise. The Secretariat should only facilitate the process with raw information.
  - v) Politically sensitive mandates should be addressed carefully.
  - vi) Any savings from the review of development related activities should be deposited to the Development Account or reinvested in development activities.
  - vii) The report provided by the Secretary General provides a good basis for work. It provides four key tools to approach the review: reporting, overlap, implementation, and resources.
  - viii) It is time-consuming exercise. The work will need to be conducted in phases, short term and long term. As to the Co-Chairs' proposed programme of work, if further time is needed, it will be provided.

- In the meeting of the Presidents of the three principal organs on 20 April, the Co-Chairs pointed out that while the Security Council is likely to draw up its own program of work, it would be important for it to coordinate its work with the General Assembly. The Council may also like to consider the general guidelines, which have emanated from the Member States. For instance:
  - i) The review of mandates by the Security Council should be conducted in a transparent manner in a process open to all member states.
  - ii) Political mandates should be reviewed bearing in mind the inter-governmental negotiations through which these were evolved.
  - iii) For the review of all political mandates, the concerned parties and other interested parties should be allowed to participate.
  - iv) The Security Council may use the same four tools that the Secretary General's report has identified, i.e. reporting, overlap, implementation, and resources.
  
- The ECOSOC could conduct its review bearing in mind the following:
  - i) ECOSOC and General Assembly have a hierarchical relationship.
  - ii) While reviewing development related mandates, ECOSOC may follow the approach of funding envelopes, i.e. savings generated out of development mandates are reinvested in other development activities.
  - iii) The review should be transparent and inclusive, and employ the same tools that have been identified in the report of the Secretary General.
  
- At this stage, each organ is expected to review its own mandates. For cross-organ mandates, the Co-Chairs will hold consultations and propose a course of action in due course.