



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 September 2006

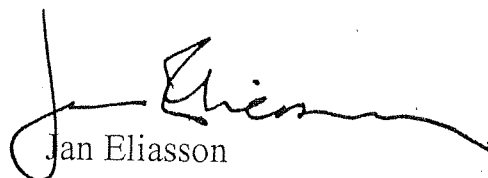
Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 September 2006 addressed to the President of the General Assembly from the Co-Chairs of the Informal Consultations of the Plenary on Mandate Review, His Excellency, Mr. Munir Akram of Pakistan and His Excellency, Mr. David Cooney of Ireland.

In this connection, I wish to bring to your attention the attached non-paper prepared by the Co-Chairs on guidelines and working methods for the way forward on mandate review.

I urge Member States to support these guidelines as proposed by the Co-Chairs to enable further progress of the mandate review during the remainder of this year.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Eliasson', with a stylized flourish at the end.
Jan Eliasson

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Pakistan
8 East 65th Street
New York NY 10021

Ambassador Munir Akram
Permanent Representative



Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations
885 Second Avenue, 19th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017

Ambassador David Cooney
Permanent Representative

H.E Mr. Jan Eliasson
President of the General Assembly
United Nations Headquarters
New York

7 September 2006

Excellency,

At your request, we have been pursuing progress on the issue of mandate review over the past few months. We consider it appropriate to report to you as your term of office comes to an end.

The informal Working Group on mandate review continues its work on mandates older than five years and not renewed. In addition, we have been conducting consultations in the informal Plenary on the way forward on mandate review.

We have the honour to attach a non paper on guidelines and working methods for the way forward on mandate review, presented by the Co-Chairs to the membership at an informal Plenary meeting on 1 September 2006.

It is our shared view, based on our extensive consultations with delegations, that these guidelines and working methods enjoy a wide measure of acceptance across the membership of the General Assembly. We are convinced that they represent the best prospect for moving forward in the process of mandate review during the remainder of this year.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust which you have placed in us and for your leadership and support throughout this sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Munir Akram

David Cooney

Cc: All Permanent Representative and Permanent Observers

Non-Paper on the Way Forward on Mandate Review

Building on the World Summit Outcome Document and work to date, it is proposed that the review of mandates should continue and that its scope should extend to General Assembly mandates older than five years, including those which have since been renewed. The review would be conducted according to the following guidelines:

- The objective of mandate review is to strengthen and update the UN's programme of work.
- The review would be conducted through an open, transparent and inclusive process and all decisions would be made on the basis of broadest possible agreement.
- Politically sensitive mandates would be addressed carefully and with due regard to the positions of the concerned parties.
- Mandate review is not intended as a cost-cutting exercise. Any savings which might arise from the exercise would be re-allocated within the Organisation's budget in accordance with GA procedures. In particular, any savings from development related activities would be re-invested in development activities.

The review would continue to be conducted by the Working Group of the informal GA Plenary.

The work would be organised by thematic clusters, as identified in the Secretary General's report, from within which Member States or groups could identify mandates which they would wish to see reviewed.

The Working Group would agree on its own programme of work for conducting mandate reviews. It could also, as appropriate, recommend that the main committees of the GA review particular mandates or groups of mandates falling within their area of competence.

The Secretariat will continue to facilitate the Member States in carrying out mandate review, including by furnishing the necessary information. Consideration should be given to ensuring that the Secretariat is provided with the necessary resources to meet its obligations in this regard.

The Working Group would submit a progress report to the informal Plenary in December 2006.