



**CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON**

**AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DRAFT  
RESOLUTION (A/60/L59) ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO  
THE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME OF THE 2005  
WORLD SUMMIT**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK  
30 JUNE 2006**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

During the last few weeks in the General Assembly there has been intense work on Secretariat and management reform, as well as on mandate review, in order to implement the decisions taken by our leaders at the 2005 World Summit. By these efforts we have begun the process to create the necessary conditions for a more efficient, effective and accountable United Nations Organization.

As I have indicated in my letter of 28 June, we can look back on a number of significant accomplishments during the 60<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. I also outlined measures that now need to be pursued on issues relating to Secretariat and management reform.

Your work during the last few weeks was carried out in an increasingly improved atmosphere. Member States have started to discuss these complex issues with a view to better understand each others' positions and to find common ground for mutually acceptable solutions.

These last few days our colleagues in the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee have been focused on the various issues raised in the Secretary-General's report "Investing in the United Nations." I want to thank all delegates for working literally day and night to find compromises on the proposals on the table. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Committee and the Secretariat for their contributions. In particular, I would like to thank the coordinator, Mr. Morteza Mirmohammad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the skillful way in which he has led the negotiations on a possible draft resolution.

In these negotiations – where work must still be continued – some areas of possible agreement have emerged.

- There is agreement to establish the post of Chief Information Technology Officer in the Office of the Secretary-General.
- There is general acceptance of the replacement of the Integrated Management Information Systems with a modernized system to ensure that the Organization provides a high degree of transparency and accountability.
- There is support for the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.
- There is, furthermore, a general understanding of the need to increase the Working Capital Fund.
- There is also support for the intention of the Secretary-General to submit a single, comprehensive annual report to the General Assembly, containing financial and programme information, aimed at enhancing transparency of the Organization and accountability of the Secretariat to Member States.
- Consultations are also being pursued on the idea of providing the Secretary-General with limited discretion in budgetary implementation.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Committee has been working hard on the complex management reform issues in “Investing in the United Nations”. At the same time, the Committee has also had to deal with peacekeeping budgets. Nearly 20 resolutions amounting to almost 5 billion dollars have been negotiated and adopted. The work-load has been extremely heavy.

In this situation it is understandable that more time will be needed to finalize the negotiations. Expectations of results have been expressed in this Hall today. The 5<sup>th</sup> Committee has thus decided to extend its resumed session from 5 to 7 July so that it may devote its attention solely to conclude its work on “Investing in the United Nations” with a view to working out a comprehensive, substantial, resolution on Secretariat and management reform for adoption by the General Assembly.

Another important aspect of our reform efforts is the mandate review.

As you recall, at the 2005 World Summit our leaders asked us to review all mandates older than five years in order to strengthen and up-date the programme of work of the United Nations. To facilitate this review the Secretary-General provided us with his report “Mandating and Delivering”. I would like to thank my Co-chairs for management reform, Ambassadors Rock of Canada and Akram of Pakistan, for their constructive and dynamic leadership of the complex mandate review process. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Assistant Secretary-General Robert Orr and his very competent staff for their excellent work.

As you know, in parallel to the work in the General Assembly, processes of mandate review are going on in the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

The Co-chairs have provided me with an interim report on their work. According to the report, comprehensive discussions have been held on the report “Mandating and Delivering.” Member States have welcomed the electronic data base of mandates as a helpful tool for their deliberations. The

data base should be a “living” source of information that is continuously updated. A working group has been established to consider those mandates five years and older that have not been renewed. The 400 mandates the group has considered have been separated into categories on the basis of their status of implementation. The group will continue by identifying areas for early action within these categories.

During these last few days, intensive consultations have taken place among Member States regarding the proposals for the way forward outlined in the interim-report by the Co-chairs.

It is my understanding that there is support for the idea that, as soon as the review of the mandates that are five years and older and that have not been renewed has been concluded, consideration should be given to entering a second phase of discussion on the remaining mandates. It is, however, also my understanding that further consultations will be needed on the guiding principles for this second phase.

It is thus my intention to convene informal consultations of the Plenary on mandate review as soon as possible in the month of July to consider the way forward. I also suggest that the informal Plenary consider giving a renewed mandate to the working group so it can continue its work on the non-renewed mandates with a view to broadening its scope to consideration of the remaining mandates once an agreement on how to proceed is agreed.

Ambassador Rock regrettably will leave his post in New York tomorrow to return to Canada. Let me use this opportunity to wish him all the best in his continued professional pursuit and personal life. Alan Rock is a deeply

respected colleague who will be sorely missed. I have asked Ambassador David Cooney of Ireland to take his place as Co-chair for management reform. I am very pleased to inform you that Ambassador Cooney has accepted to take on this task and is ready to start the work in July. We know that he will do this with his well-known competence and wisdom.

Before concluding, I would also like to note that the General Assembly has now by consensus authorized the expenditure of the remaining funds appropriated in resolution 60/247 A, noting also, of course, the disassociation from consensus by some Member States. By this decision the United Nations is now in a position to fully implement its programme of work during the remainder of the biennium 2006-2007 and deliver its services to peoples and crises areas all over the world.

In order to do this effectively the work to reform, streamline and modernize the United Nations must be pursued with vigour and a sense of shared responsibility.