

EU AT

General Assembly  
Sixtieth Session

Seventh Informal Plenary Meeting  
on Mandate Review

Statement on behalf of the European Union

Mr. Alexander Marschik  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria  
to the United Nations

New York, 17 May 2006

(check against delivery)

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Croatia and Turkey, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area as well as Ukraine and Moldova align themselves with this statement.

Since today's meeting concludes our general discussion of the report of the Secretary General, it also provides us with a good opportunity to make comments of a general nature before Co-Chairs start drafting their first conclusions. Let me briefly recall the EU's vision of Mandate Review and the way ahead.

Mandate Review is a valuable and necessary stock-taking, aimed at updating and improving the work of the organisation as it becomes ever more operational in its focus. With this goal in mind, we will have to identify and consolidate obsolete, redundant or unnecessarily duplicative mandates. Spare capacities generated in the process should be used for the benefit of our shared priorities, starting with those functions most in need of reinforcement.

We value the inclusiveness and transparency of the process and welcome the active involvement of the Secretariat. Mandate Review should not be overburdened, especially in this first phase, with politically sensitive mandates, nor is it intended as a cost-cutting exercise. We also believe that Mandate Review is complementary to other ongoing reform processes all of which are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Meaningful results achieved in this first phase will illustrate the added value of Mandate Review. The EU looks forward to the Secretariat's detailed suggestions on opportunities for consolidation of reporting requirements, on the continued maintenance of the Registry of Mandates as well as on UN observances. The outcome of the first phase should also set up the process for the following phases of Mandate Review in the mid- and long term.

We support the Mandate Review efforts now beginning in the Security Council and in the Economic and Social Council and hope that some decisions can be arrived at in these organs, also in the short term.

Following the invitation of the Co-Chairs, I will now address the substance of the Chapters of the Secretary-General's Report we are discussing today: Chapter V. "Gender Equality and empowerment of women" and Chapter VI. "United Nations research and training institutions".

#### **Chapter V. "Gender Equality and empowerment of women"**

Mr Chairman,

The commitment of our leaders in the World Summit Outcome to strengthen the capabilities of the UN system in the area of gender equality, both at the political and at the operational or field level, is of central importance to the EU.

The EU therefore welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to ask the High-level Panel on System-wide coherence to consider how gender equality can be better and more fully addressed by the UN. In this regard, ownership at all management levels – including the highest level – is key to the effective implementation of gender mainstreaming in all UN-entities. The EU looks forward to the recommendations by the panel in this regard, and stands ready to engage in further deliberations on this issue.

#### **Chapter VI. “United Nations research and training institutions”.**

Mr. Chairman,

As regards Chapter VI on “UN research and training institutions” let me briefly outline the view shared by the EU.

Efficient and relevant research and training facilities are of key importance for the United Nations. The EU welcomes the review of mandates in the field of UN research and training institutes and emphasizes the need to develop an updated and efficiently functioning global system of UN research and training institutes. The EU supports the Secretary-General's efforts in this matter.

Mandate Review in this field should therefore aim at developing a more coherent framework of UN research and training institutes based on principles of complementarity, coordination and cooperation. In the short term, we support efforts to strengthen the institutes' comparative advantages and make maximum use of synergies among them while in the medium term the institutes' activities should be part of and embedded in a common UN policy on research and training.

As identified in the Secretary-General's report, the present system suffers from deficiencies in coordination and cooperation, lack of rationalization, ambiguity in the lines of accountability and lack of an effective impact evaluation. The EU supports the Secretary-General's proposals regarding improvement of coordination and cooperation between the institutes and other UN entities. We particularly support the idea of producing and maintaining – by a body yet to be determined – a detailed list of the projects carried out by all UN training and research institutes before the initiation of new projects. In this regard the role and mandate of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) should be further examined.

With regard to coordination the EU welcomes efforts to actively enhance the networking mechanisms between the research and training institutions, international organizations and the academic world. Internet-based networks and electronic discussion forums should be actively used in order to facilitate better coordination between entities spread around the world.



# AUSTRALIA



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**Plenary**  
17 May 2006

**Informal consultations on the report of the Secretary-General  
entitled *Mandating and Delivering: Analysis and  
Recommendations to Facilitate the Review of Mandates***

**Statement by HE Robert Hill  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Australia to the United Nations**

**On behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand**

(Check against delivery)

Mr co-Chair,

CANZ welcomes this opportunity to discuss mandates related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to United Nations research and training institutions. We thank the co-Chairs for calling this additional informal to discuss these important issues.

**Gender equality and the empowerment of women**

We welcome recognition in the Secretary-General's report that gender issues deserve to be considered in the same way as other priorities which cut across the entire UN agenda. This correctly acknowledges that promoting gender equality and empowering women is a critical part of what the UN does. Accordingly, CANZ supports gender issues being examined both as part of the mandates review, and by the High-level Panel on system wide coherence.

We are pleased the Secretary-General has given the High-level Panel responsibility for reviewing and strengthening the UN architecture for promoting gender equality and empowering women. The High-level Panel's work, and our efforts to review mandates, should be mutually supportive. We must ensure coherence between the

a more rigorous accountability mechanism, CANZ believes the proposed new research and training system should be funded entirely from voluntary contributions.

The mandates review is an ideal opportunity to revitalise the research and training capacity of the United Nations, so that it may contribute more effectively to States, the Organisation, and the broader academic community.

Thank you, Mr co-Chair.



## **REVIEW OF UNITED NATIONS MANDATES**

**Statement by Mr. George Talbot**

**Chargé d' affaires a.i.**

**on**

**Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and  
the United Nations Research and Training Institutions**

**ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP**

**MAY 17, 2006**

Mr. Co-Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Rio Group namely: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and my own country Guyana.

From the outset, allow me, Mr. Co-Chairman, to once again express the Rio Group's appreciation for the Report of the Secretary-General and particularly his analysis and recommendations on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the United Nations research and training institutions. We believe that the process in which we are engaged allows for inclusive and transparent discussions and could be meaningful to the strengthening of this Organisation.

In light of its linkage to sustainable development, peace and security, respect for human rights and the strengthening of democracy, Member States of the Rio Group accord high priority to gender equality and the empowerment of women. We acknowledge the work being done by the various bodies of the United Nations to ensure the economic, social, cultural and political advancement of women as well as implementation of international commitments related thereto. The readiness of the different UN bodies to contribute to the enhancement of all aspects of the lives of women has resulted in their being accorded responsibility for specific elements of the gender agenda thereby increasing the cross-cutting nature of this issue. We therefore have to ensure that coordination is enhanced and duplication minimised.

The Rio Group acknowledges that there is currently a large number of reports on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Though these reports are a useful source of information and helpful in guiding the statements of Member States, there is clearly scope for improvement. We are willing to consider the consolidation of reports in so far as they approach the same issue from different angles, on the basis that this consolidation will not weaken the efforts of the Organisation to achieve the MDGs with respect to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

**Informal consultations of the plenary on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates"**

**17 May 2006, 3pm**

**General discussion:**

**Chapter V (Gender equality and empowerment of women)**

**Chapter VI (United Nations research and training institutions)**

**Austria (on behalf of the EU)**

On Chapter 5

- Gender is a key cross-cutting issue.
- However, there are some redundancies which need to be addressed.
- Parallel reporting on closely related issues can be reduced.
- The focus should be on action-oriented reports which help to strengthen operational impact.
- Ownership of the issue is needed at all levels.

On Chapter 6

- Make maximum use of synergies between the different institutions.
- Institutions should be embedded in a common policy.
- Problems: ambiguity and the lack of evaluation
- Coherent cooperation is needed, e.g. through extensive web-based networking.
- UNU, UNITAR and the Staff College could report under one agenda item.

**Guyana (on behalf of the Rio Group)**

On Chapter 5

- Gender equality and the empowerment of women are a high priority for the Rio Group.
- Consolidation measures should not weaken the efforts in this area.
- The existing architecture is appropriate.
- Coherence and coordination (e.g. among UNIFEM, UNDP, INSTRAW, ECOSOC) should be improved.

On Chapter 6

- Appreciates the work of UNITAR. Reserves further comments on Chapter 6 for a later stage.

**Australia (on behalf of CANZ)**

On Chapter 5

- Supports the inclusion of gender-related work in the review process.
- The focus of reporting should be on monitoring of implementation (e.g. Beijing, CEDAW, MDGs).

On Chapter 6

- Interested in the SG's recommendation to consolidate the research and training institutions.
- A thorough needs assessment and improved accountability are needed. A periodic review could be useful in this context.

- Contributions should be voluntary.

## **US**

### **On Chapter 5**

- Reports can be consolidated (e.g. by publishing only one report on women in development or women's human rights and not necessarily on an annual basis).
- Broad mandates are not helpful in improving the lives of women. Specificity is needed.
- Eliminate duplication.
- INSTRAW has no comparative advantage over other UN entities working in the same area. It should therefore be funded only through voluntary contributions.
- UNIFEM should maintain its good focus on the field level.
- CSW should not be overburdened with too many issues.

### **On Chapter 6**

- Welcomes evaluation and the establishment of one system.