

Mandate Review: Development of Africa

This document provides a written response to questions submitted to the Co-Chairs.

Response to other questions arising during the consultation process

General questions

1. How can we better allocate resources?

Allocation of resources is a Member States process, so improvements in this sphere would depend upon their political will. Since Africa is a top priority among Member States themselves, as well as for the Secretary-General, hopefully agreement can be reached on ways of improving allocation of resources, inter alia by review of mandates.

2. What would be the recommendations for the red mandates, regarding further actions? Shouldn't we be focusing on the Mandates implemented by the secretariat?

Regarding the red mandates, we will be doing what we did in the Humanitarian cluster. We will go to the Secretariat and get agreement on the action of discontinuing the mandates. The scope of our analysis is to respond to all the mandates from the General Assembly.

Questions related to Red Mandates

3. What exactly did OSAA or the other implementing stop doing after the mandates were superseded?

When mandates were superseded, OSAA began executing the new mandates which had replaced the earlier ones; for instance, OSAA is currently executing the NEPAD mandate which has superseded (and replaced) the earlier mandate on UN – NADAF. The precise activities which OSAA stopped doing included, advocacy, organization of expert group meetings, and other forms of support for the implementation of UN - NADAF.

4. Are other entities implementing the Mandates that OSAA is no longer implementing?

Generally speaking, the other entities are also answerable to Member States through their respective governing boards and management structures. These entities generally are given mandates to execute programmes and activities by the same Member States. When the General Assembly formally brings to an end one set of mandates (e.g. UN – NADAF) and replaces them with a new set (e.g. NEPAD), the entities are then authorized by their structures to do the same.

Questions related to Green mandates

5. If there are any questions on these mandates, would they go directly to implementing entities to ask?

Initially will take the questions and discuss with OSAA. With the humanitarian cluster we took the questions directly to OCHA. Member States can approach OSAA for answers as appropriate, but can also directly approach the relevant implementing entity.

6. On Mandate 18336: how can we measure its implementation? How is this Mandate being implemented? Why are UNCTAD and WFP listed as implementing entities?
7. On Mandate 3036: this Mandate regards TICAD (same as the above) and on this one OSAA is listed as implementing entity. Why? Who is really implementing TICAD?

These mandates reflect current need. TICAD has been held every 5 years since its inception in 1993. The most recent conference (TICAD IV) was held in May 2008, resulting in a Declaration, Plan of Action for Africa, and a following mechanism. The main organizers of the TICAD process are the Government of Japan, OSAA UNDP and the World Bank. Mandate 3036 recognizes the importance of South-South Cooperation, at large. This is much bigger than the TICAD process. Here again, OSAA works with various developing and/or emerging economies, together with various UN agencies, on South-South Cooperation activities. Implementing entities listed in the chart were provided in the registry.

8. How do we trust that the information on the Registry is correct and updated? How do we overcome this challenge?

The difficulty of this exercise is the fact that not all the information on the registry is entirely consistent. The Department of Management, working with the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management currently have interns cleaning up the Registry in order to make it more efficient as a tool for Member States.

9. On Mandates 17825, 17826, and 17827: JCC believed that these mandates should not be analyzed in this discussion. What is OSAA's role?

OSAA's role at the regional and sub-regional level are limited to attending and contributing to meetings such as the AU summits, RCM, HSGIC, APRM etc. OSAA is not involved in operational activities at the regional or national level. OSAA's role is at a global level, that is, advocacy for NEPAD through briefings and constant interactions with various interlocutors at the international level.

10. How are Mandates 3043 and 3044 related to the current structure of OSAA?

Resolution 57/7 brought an end to UN-NADAF and endorsed NEPAD as the framework through which the UN system would support Africa. Resolution 57/300 called for the creation of OSAA. The office was designated as the focal point for NEPAD at headquarters. OSAA is mandated to produce the Secretary-General's annual report on international support for NEPAD: progress and implementation. OSAA participates in the Ad-Hoc Working Group on countries emerging from conflict. This Working Group is part of ECOSOC.

11. Mandate 14107: Does this interdepartmental task force exist? Which departments are involved in this task force? How far is this task force functioning?

The inter-departmental Task Force exists. Its membership is open to all UN agencies working on African issues. Currently, the Task Force is meeting in preparation for the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs; challenges and the way forward, scheduled to take place in September 2008.