



Permanent Mission of New Zealand  
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of the Republic  
Namibia to the United Nations

24 June 2008

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
NEW YORK

Excellency,

**Mandate review: Update**

We are aware that at this busy time of the year, not all delegations were able to be present at the informal informals held on 20 June on the Development of Africa cluster of mandates, so we take this opportunity to update you on our progress to date and our proposed next steps.

As advised in our letter of 13 June, the co-chairs' preliminary analysis of the 'Development of Africa' mandates is now available on the website of the President of the General Assembly:  
<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/issues/MandateReview.shtml>

A number of questions raised at the above meeting have been referred to the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. If there are additional questions or comments, we would appreciate your contacting us with these as quickly as possible and at latest before 27 June. During the week of 30 June we shall circulate a revised document and recommendations, along with a question and answer paper.

The next informal consultations are tentatively scheduled for Monday 7 July. At this session we would aim to come to provisional decisions on the Development of Africa cluster.

We also expect by then to have received and circulated to Member States a response to questions conveyed to the Secretary-General via the President of the General Assembly as to any operational or resource implications from provisional decisions taken on 15 May on the humanitarian cluster.

Given that as co-chairs we have six weeks remaining before we are due to report back to the President of the General Assembly, we propose to take up a third cluster – the Promotion of Justice and International Law. This contains 223 mandates, which we consider can be processed in the time available.

Over the coming weeks, we invite delegations to give thought to the future direction of the mandate review process. We should all be prepared to make a rigorous assessment of whether this is meeting the objectives set out in the 2005 Outcome document, to “strengthen and update the programme of work of the United Nations so as to respond to the contemporary requirements of Member States”. If it is our collective judgment that there may be better ways to achieve these objectives, then we should be prepared to try to define a future path.

Yours sincerely,



Rosemary Banks



Kaire Mbuende