



Mandate Implementation Review – UN80 Initiative
**EU Written Contribution to the Informal Ad-Hoc Working Group
on Mandate Implementation Review's call for contributions on
Mandate Creation**

The European Union reaffirms its commitment to strengthening multilateralism and enhancing the impact on the ground of United Nations' mandates. To this end, the EU and its Member States are ready to play a constructive role in advancing this complex process. The EU supports consensus-based reforms which advance the efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability and visibility of the UN system, and welcomes the UN Secretary-General's (UNSG) initial proposals put forward in his Report on the Mandate Implementation Review. These are encouraging first steps, and the EU encourages the UNSG to continue leading the process, in close coordination and full transparency with Member States, presenting bold and forward-looking proposals leading to visible and measurable results. We concur with the need to review mandate life cycles and strengthen mandate implementation and delivery across the three pillars of the United Nations.

The EU highlights the importance of the work under workstream 2 covering all mandates and not solely focussing on future mandates. While the distinction into three parts is clear (creation/implementation/review), the process of reviewing existing mandates will have to be addressed in the next steps to deal with the 40,000 existing mandates.

In this context, a registry with all existing mandates would offer Member States the possibility to assess possible overlap and duplication, and to consider establishing a review process, with Secretariat support.

As a guiding principle, the EU considers crucial that all new mandates ensure full respect for international law in line with the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and further encourages to systematically integrate human rights compliance, gender and vulnerable groups considerations, in line with the Human Rights Up Front initiative.

The EU further welcomes the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly adopted on 5 September 2025 (A/79/995) and requests the Informal Ad-Hoc Working Group on Mandate Implementation Review to consider the relevant operational paragraphs in this report for the final outcome document of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Mandate Implementation as to limit duplication between the two bodies of work.

EU Position on UN Proposals for Member States' consideration

- **Effective Mandate design**

The EU supports calls to reduce the number and length of mandate texts and make them action-oriented and results-driven, in line with General Assembly (GA) Resolutions 77/335 and 79/327, and in full respect of the prerogatives of Member States, which adopt them. The EU also supports granting appropriate flexibility to the Secretary-General for assigning

tasks in line with comparative advantages and resource availability across the UN system when framing the mandates (para. 29, 77; proposal 1-2). The frequency of consideration of the mandate texts should be adjusted to the actual need for an update and to the capacity of the agendas of relevant bodies.

While preserving the normative power of Resolutions, the EU strongly supports the introduction of sunset clauses from the mandate inception phase, with a robust mechanism for periodic review to prevent unlimited extensions and ensure mandates failing to meet their results within the established metrics are reoriented or discontinued to ensure continued relevance and efficiency.

Member States should consider reviewing timelines for mandate cycles. Too many mandates – as part of resolutions – are re-negotiated annually or bi-annually without resulting in significant changes. The EU supports limiting the mandate cycle in new mandates, for example to every three to five years. Short cycles should only be possible when underpinned by argumentation.

Resource Implications and Programmatic Alignment

- The gap between mandates and resources is a critical problem, which has intensified over the past 20 years. The EU underlines that new mandates must be accompanied by explicit, evidence-based resource pathways, including short- and long-term projections of sourcing of the funds, compensated by reductions in other mandated tasks while maintaining balance between the three pillars (para. 29, 77, proposal 3), or by reassignment of financial and human resources from tasks already completed and must strictly be limited to the core needs. The EU further believes that proposals for new mandates must be accompanied by strategic considerations by the Secretariat regarding their financing and avoid tasks or obligations not backed by corresponding resources. Options for reallocating resources should be explored before systematically requesting new resources. If a certain activity is to be funded by voluntary contributions, the Secretariat should signal if and when sufficient voluntary contributions are collected before implementing, unless the legislative/mandating body decides otherwise.

In addition to the UN proposed solutions, the EU underlines the importance of a consulted, transparent and inclusive creation process.

- From the onset, mandates should imply a clear mapping of the activities and actors already present in the field, as well as clear guidelines on how to articulate and complement efforts. The EU recommends before proposals are tabled holding systematic consultations with a minimum formal consultation period with all relevant UN organs, programmes, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and other relevant actors to ensure mandates reflect ground realities and promote legitimacy (paras. 5, 18–21). Early input maximises legitimacy and impact, in keeping with the inclusive ethos of the UN80 Initiative.
- The EU is aware that it can lead to a potential review on how the current budgetary and programmatic processes and practices deliver in the framework of workstream 3 (paras. 40, 41). However, the EU considers the interlinkage between the workstreams critical to a

successful reform.

The EU further strongly supports the UN Secretary-General in exercising his authority to take actions he deems necessary to improve support for Member States throughout the mandate lifecycle, as outlined in his 31 July Report on Mandate Implementation Review (para.74). In this regard, the EU welcomes the proposed solutions the UN SG intends to take forward to improve mandate design.

- **Enhancing Visibility Across Mandates**

The EU strongly supports the Secretary General's commitment to accelerate the development of comprehensive digital registries of existing mandate texts for all mandating bodies. We welcome the initial digital mandate registries already created by the UN80 initiative, the OHCHR and the UNFCCC in this regard and welcome their integration in one user-friendly consolidated registry.

We encourage the Secretary-General in his capacity as the Chair of the UN system Chief Executives Board for Coordination to work with all UN system's chief executives to enhance cooperation, including in the area of data exchange, to improve visibility, reduce duplication and maximise mandate coordination and impact. In this vein, we would welcome the online publication of "summary sheets" for each new mandate, outlining objectives, timelines, anticipated resources, and contact points in the Secretariat, as an instrument of transparency and accountability.

The EU would also welcome the following information by the Secretariat to continue to fuel discussions on mandates : i) lists of reports and identification of duplications on similar topics, number of downloads, entities in charge, including propositions of the Secretariat on which ones could be merged or suppressed ; ii) details underpinning the "heating map" presented by the UN80 task force to identify on which mandates and for which entities duplication occurs.

- **Strengthening Secretariat and System Support**

The EU welcomes the intention to upgrade the Secretariat's support for Member States during mandate creation and to strengthen coordination and promote visibility across the work of mandating bodies. Timely and concise reporting is a crucial condition for informed decision-making, providing Member States with necessary data and ample time for its thorough analysis. This will facilitate access to expertise and streamline the support process for all delegations. This enhanced role should enable the Secretariat to clearly delineate the responsibility of entities in implementing mandates, while ensuring that duplications are avoided. Meanwhile the EU also wants to point to the fact that this will not completely solve the issue related to mandate creation as mandates are the result of political compromises.

The EU proposes that for every new mandate the Member State(s) is/are obligated to request the UN Secretariat to provide an operational note, circulated to Member States at the start of the negotiation process, that will outline the estimated resources (financial and personnel) required for the implementation (in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the GA), and the potential overlap or duplication with existing mandates, in

order to inform a compulsory operational paragraph to be part of the proposed mandate.

- **Deploying Artificial Intelligence Tools**

The EU supports the open, responsible and transparent use of artificial intelligence tools under strict human control to assist mandate drafting, Member States' decision-making, and identification of complementarity or duplication across mandating bodies. The use of such tools should be based on strong safeguards to ensure accountability, inclusiveness and respect for fundamental values. The EU is also open to the utilization of other technological solutions that could facilitate participation of Member States in the mandate creation process, including collaborative applications as well as virtual and hybrid meetings, especially important for smaller and overburdened delegations.

- **Provide regular budget expenditures**

Proposals for new mandates must be accompanied by clear, comprehensive and evidence-based estimates of required resources and options from Secretariat for reallocating resources where possible. The Secretariat's support to Member States during the drafting of new mandates is essential, including through the provision of harmonized criteria for budgetary impact analysis and operational feasibility. In this regard, the EU expects the Secretary-General to prepare estimates of regular budget expenditures as well as an additional outline of how activities will align programmatically across the UN system and funding streams. This is vital to avoid dilution of impact and ensure sustainability.

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