

## SUBMISSION

### WORKSTREAM 2: INFORMAL AD HOC WORKING GROUP: MANDATE CREATION

Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide a written submission on the creation of mandates under the informal ad hoc working group (IAHWG) on the Mandate Implementation Review established under A/DEC/79/571.

Australia's proposals are grounded in a vision for a United Nations that fulfils its promise of safeguarding sovereignty by promoting international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. We want a modern, functional, forward-looking organisation, so that it can help with the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The UN is at a critical juncture. The UN Secretariat has said that the UN faces a budget reduction of 30 per cent<sup>1</sup>, exacerbating its ongoing liquidity crisis. This is in no small part due to the proliferation of mandates by Member States.

As the [Report of the Mandate Implementation Review](#) outlined, Member States find it “difficult to keep full sight of the overall mandate landscape; there is a danger of duplication and overlap between mandates; the aggregated instructions in mandates may place an unreasonable burden on both the UN system and Member States; the mandates may not always translate into clear resource allocations or programmes for maximum impact; and mandates may also outlive their original use and purpose if not subject to regular examination”.

#### **Proposed Member State Action for Efficient Mandate Creation**


Australia supports bold, ambitious UN reform. In response to the key findings of the [Report of the Mandate Implementation Review](#), Australia proposes that Member States pledge to follow principles for new mandates to ensure limited resources are directed where they are needed most.

Australia proposes Member States commit to ensuring new mandates:

1. **Link to the core pillars of the UN and advance tangible outcomes.**
2. **Minimise duplication in mandate creation across the UN system**, drawing on the Secretariat's expertise and tools (such as the online mandate registry).
3. **Draft shorter and more focused resolutions, with clear decision points, setting and adhering to page limits**, to increase transparency, reduce workloads and increase the likelihood that mandates will be actively and effectively implemented.
4. **Make more use of decisions instead of resolutions for procedural matters.**
5. **Build in review clauses and, where appropriate, time-bound provisions [sunset clauses].**

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<sup>1</sup> G Ryder (Under Secretary-General for Policy and Chair of the UN80 taskforce), *Briefing to Member States on UN80*, 24 June 2025.

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6. **Are framed to give the Secretary-General appropriate flexibility to assign tasks,** based on comparative advantages and resources across the UN system.
  7. **Discourage recurring resolutions, and where recurring resolutions are deemed necessary, commit to multiannual mandates for recurring resolutions.** Member States need to reduce the time and resources spent negotiating resolutions introduced year after year with substantially the same content.
  8. **Assess the programme budget implications early and often.** Resolutions should be transparent on the resource implications to implement a new mandate and identify offsets where needed. All resolutions should include a dedicated section clearly addressing these issues.
  9. **Refrain from mandating new tasks that are not backed by corresponding resources** or an explicit reduction in other mandated tasks.

### **Ideas for consideration**

To take forward these principles, Australia proposes two outcomes:

#### ***An outcome that advances member state commitments on mandate creation***

The outcome of the IAHWG could take the form of a General Assembly resolution that helps address challenges in mandate design by introducing practical reforms to ensure mandates are more focused, cost-effective, and impactful. A resolution that confirms Member States commitments to streamline mandate creation, avoid duplication, and adopt clearer, outcome-oriented texts, would strengthen the UN's ability to deliver meaningful results while respecting the prerogative of Member States in shaping the UN's priorities.

#### ***A new template for General Assembly resolutions***

A new template for drafting resolutions would help Member States to draft more impactful and targeted mandates, and to make more informed decisions on proposed mandates. This template should include a requirement for the programme budget implications of proposed mandates to be outlined. It should include a checklist – around scope, purpose, duplicity, timeframe, and review of resolutions – to ensure strategic and coherent resolutions. This template could be used by all Member States when drafting General Assembly resolutions and could be designed by the Secretariat with the Office of the President of the General Assembly. It could serve as a standard reference to improve consistency and effectiveness in mandate design.

### **Next steps**

Australia looks forward to continued engagement with Member States through the IAHWG to progress tangible results that improve the creation of mandates, and in doing so, support a resilient and sustainable UN system able to deliver effectively on all three foundational pillars of its work into the future.