

Remarks by

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Mandate review

December 3rd, 2025

I would like to join others in expressing appreciation and thanks for the transparent and inclusive process that the cochairs have led us through. I would also like to thank USG Guy Ryder and his team for their excellent work.

Mandates are the basis for the operation of the UN and the method by which we give instructions on what must be done. Therefore, it is essential that they are clear, timely and that they concentrate on what is essential. They need to be implementable and implemented.

Iceland as a small member state sees UN80 and the rationalisation of the whole mandate process as a path to a UN in which we can operate more efficiently and more effectively and on a more equal footing among all states.

We see the present avalanche of mandates and reports, processes and conferences not only as lacking in effectiveness and efficiency, but also in a certain sense, discriminatory against those many states which simply do not have the capacity to cover all the bases. Here I would like to express appreciation of comments from a number of states this morning, including Dominica for CARICOM, the Solomon Islands for the Pacific Island Forum, Timor Leste and Tajikistan for the Central Asian Countries.

We also believe that rationalisation of mandates will give us as member states more time to concentrate on what really matters. Effective review is essential to ensuring that mandates are implementable, implemented and effective. We support proposals to integrate review clauses into all mandates with clarity on timeline and goals.

An effective mandate review approach is key to impactful action by the UN and to ensure that mandates are rooted in inclusive UN processes.

Iceland will continue to participate actively in this process.