



# United States Mission to the United Nations

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## Informal Plenary Meeting Friday, April 7, 2006 Statement by Ambassador Mark Wallace

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Initially, I would like to thank the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General Orr, and his staff, as well as the many Secretariat staff throughout the Organization that participated in the preparation of this very important Report.

In the view of the United States a United Nations that is well managed, transparent and accountable – that uses valuable resources effectively to meet current challenges – will benefit all Member States.

As the United States has said on a number of occasions, this review is not intended to lower contributions to the UN, but rather to use resources efficiently and effectively. In this respect, it is our view that this review should be aimed at eliminating, reducing or consolidating programs that have become obsolete, ineffectual, or redundant so that the resources now devoted to them might be transferred to programs that are relevant and that work well, or returned to Member states.

My Government believes that the Report including the data base developed for this review, is an important first step in achieving these vital objectives. In this respect, my Government welcomes the recognition by the Secretary General that this review presents a "unique opportunity to strengthen and adapt our Organization to the priorities of today".

The United States also welcomes the identification by the Secretary General in the Report of serious problems in the manner in which mandates are adopted, funded and implemented as well as the manner in which they are considered for continuation, change or elimination. The problems identified by the Secretary General include: the uncoordinated and burdensome reporting requirements; overlap between and within organs; an unwieldy and duplicative architecture for implementation of mandates; and a gap between mandates and resources.

While the Report is of a general nature, the Report also provides analysis of groups of mandates into nine thematic areas reflecting the organization of the General Assembly agenda items. While even this analysis is in many respects of a general nature, in a number of instances the Report identifies problems regarding specific mandates, or groups of mandates.

The Report also provides suggestions for addressing in the future the problems identified in regard to the process for dealing with mandates. We welcome these suggestions, including the suggestion for requiring a statement containing an evaluation of any proposed mandate in terms of existing mandates and the implications of the proposed new mandate for such existing mandates and the overall goals of the Organization. As the Secretary-General indicated, such a requirement would be analogous to the requirement in adopting resolutions for a statement from the Secretariat regarding programme budget implications. We look forward to working with other Member states in carefully considering these suggestions and others that may emerge from our deliberations.

The Secretary-General acknowledges that there is not adequate information on every mandate on which to base a full review. The Secretary-General and the Secretariat have indicated that the Secretariat will be available to provide further information and analysis in regard to specific mandates or groups of mandates. Moreover, the Secretary-General has indicated that the Secretariat stands ready to provide additional proposals in regard to certain mandates. My government welcomes the commitment of the Secretary-General to provide further information and analyses, as well as proposals.

The United States recognizes that the complete review of all mandates will take many months and, indeed, that the process of reviewing mandates should become an ongoing one. We look forward to working with other Member States in establishing a rational process for conducting such a continuing review.

However the United States expects that some significant initial decisions regarding mandates can and should be made on an expeditious basis in the coming months. In this respect, the United States welcomes the recommendation of the Secretary General that we divide our review of mandates into two distinct phases; the first devoted to mandates where problems can be clearly identified and where a solution can be reached in the near coming months; and the second phase devoted to mandates where clear answers are not immediately apparent. The United States looks forward to working with the Co-Chairs and other Member States in developing a process that offers the opportunity for such early action.

Thank you.