

United Nations  Nations Unies

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

26 March 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing in response to your letter of 19 March 2025 addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the new UN80 Initiative. The Secretary-General has asked me to convey his sincere thanks to you for the letter.

I appreciate your ongoing engagement in your roles as representatives of staff unions and associations. The role of staff representatives is critical for the good functioning of the United Nations, and your efforts have the full support of the Secretary-General and his leadership team.

The current context presents us with many challenges, and the Secretary-General is acutely aware of the need to be vigilant of the impact of such uncertainty on our workforce. Across the United Nations system, we are being asked to work with less resources despite the increasing global challenges that demand our attention.

This is why the UN80 Initiative is important – it aims to turn the uncertainties of the current context into opportunities – opportunities to reshape how the United Nations works, so that it can become fit for purpose to meet the challenges of the future. I can assure you that the UN80 Initiative will be carried out in full transparency and in close and regular consultation with the staff and their representatives.

I know that Under-Secretary-General Catherine Pollard has already briefed you on the UN80 Initiative in the context of the Staff-Management Committee (SMC). As staff representative leaders, it is important that you remain apprised of the Initiative as it evolves and that you also engage on the Initiative, through the SMC. Insights from the staff and their representatives will be highly valuable to this process and will be taken into account.

Staff Unions and Associations of the  
United Nations Organization

The UN80 task force will function as a management body, comprised of senior leaders from across the United Nations system, led by Under-Secretary-General Guy Ryder. As such, the task force will not include staff union representatives. However, I would like to reiterate that staff representatives will continue to be engaged in the UN80 Initiative through the staff-management consultation machinery, namely the SMC. As indicated in her briefing to the Committee, Under-Secretary-General Pollard will ensure that, through the SMC, staff representative bodies remain informed and involved, and will have the opportunity to make meaningful contributions as the Initiative proceeds.

Allow me to reiterate my thanks, on behalf of the Secretary-General, for your ongoing dedication as staff representatives and for your involvement in ensuring the success of this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Rattray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E. Courtenay Rattray  
Chef de Cabinet

cc: ECA Staff Union  
ECLAC Staff Association  
ESCAP Staff Association  
ESCWA Staff Council  
UN Nairobi Staff Union and Outposted Offices  
UN Staff Union New York  
UNOG Staff Union  
UNOV/UNODC Staff Council  
UN Field Staff Union