

Terms of Reference

UN80 Initiative Task Force

Background

1. The 80th anniversary of the United Nations coincides with the intensification of multiple global challenges and an unprecedented questioning of the value and capacity of the multilateral system in framing credible and effective responses to them. The UN system needs to respond to this context by undertaking a rigorous process of self-scrutiny and then acting with ambition and urgency to improve and adapt. Only by ensuring that it is efficient and effective, capable and adaptable, will the UN system demonstrate that it continues to be fit for the future ensure continued political and financial support to safeguard its sustainability. The purposes, principles, and values of the United Nations as enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations remain as relevant today as they were 80 years ago.

Purpose

2. The Secretary-General launched the UN80 initiative on 11 March 2025 to respond to these needs and to strengthen the UN's delivery of the 2030 Agenda, the Pact for the Future and services to the people we must serve. This effort will build on earlier reform efforts led by the Secretary-General to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of the organization across development, management and peace activities. It also expands ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and accountability in the Secretariat and to increase capacity in areas such as data and digital that will enable the Organization to better innovate and modernize. The UN80 initiative, will identify measures that can be implemented under the authority of the UN Secretary-General, measures to be consulted with the heads of other organizations within the United Nations system as well as measures to be presented for discussion by Member States and decision-making by the relevant intergovernmental organs, when appropriate.

Objectives

3. The UN80 Task Force will develop proposals for consideration by the Secretary-General in the following three areas:
- Efficiencies and improvements that can be achieved within current arrangements,
 - The implementation of all mandates received from Member States, and
 - The need for structural changes and programme realignment within the United Nations system.

Responsibilities

4. The Task Force will make recommendations to the Secretary-General in three areas of its mandate. It will be for the Secretary-General to determine if they should be forwarded to other bodies or Member States for further consultation.

5. The Task Force may establish on an ad hoc basis working groups to examine issues arising in the course of its work and to make recommendations to the Task Force. It will, through its members, reach out to UN system entities as required to ensure a fully inclusive system-wide process. The Task Force will consider opportunities for outreach to external stakeholders on an ad hoc basis.

6. All proposals recommended by the Task Force must include an assessment of costs and risks. The Task Force shall remain mindful of the impact of proposed measures on the broader United Nations system.

7. The Task Force's activities will be carried out in close consultation with the representatives of staff and Member States, as necessary, with a commitment to transparency.

8. The conclusions and recommendations from each of the Task Force meetings will be prepared by the secretariat of the Task Force for consideration by the Secretary-General and circulation, as appropriate.

Membership

9. The Task Force will be chaired by Mr. Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, and will be supported by a secretariat led by Mr. Arnab Roy. Members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, serving in their individual capacities, and will represent the interest of the United Nations system rather than his/her departmental interest.

- Mr. Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management
- Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi
- Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunications Union
- Ms. Rebeca Grynspan Mayufis, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support
- Mr. Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
- Ms. Elinor Hammarhjöld, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel
- Mr. LI Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- Ms. Cindy McCain, Executive Director, World Food Programme
- Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
- Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme
- Mr. Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Ms. Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

Organization

Task Force

10. The Task Force will meet at least once per month and as required, either remotely or in a hybrid format, in a principal +1 configuration.

11. The Task Force will report, through its Chair, to the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Chef de Cabinet through the weekly Senior Officials Meetings.

Working Group on Efficiency and cost effectiveness in UN Management and Operations

A Working Group of the Task Force on Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness in UN Management and Operations will be chaired by the USG for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and will report to the Task Force at each of its meetings.

Duration

12. The Task Force will continue to meet through 2025, at which point its continuation will be reviewed.