



# PACT FOR THE FUTURE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

## BULLETIN NO. 64:

### Informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing by the Secretary-General on the UN80 Initiative



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## Informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing by the Secretary-General on the UN80 Initiative – Trusteeship Council Chamber, 12 May 2025

**ABOUT:** On 11 March 2025, the UN Secretary General launched the [UN80 Initiative](#) to ensure the UN remains effective, cost-efficient and responsive to the People it serves. He undertook to consult closely and regularly on the progress made. This briefing provided an opportunity for the Secretary General to address Member States directly and for delegations to provide remarks on the UN80 Initiative. You can watch the full recording of the plenary [here](#).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In an era marked by geopolitical turbulence, austerity measures, and uncertainty, and with the upcoming 80th anniversary of the United Nations, the Organization is undertaking a transformative UN80 Initiative to position the organization for maximum effectiveness, agility, and impact. The UN80 Initiative is a response to the need for a modern, coordinated, and fit-for-purpose UN system.

Anchored in three interconnected workstreams, the initiative is focused on:

1. Driving efficiencies and operational improvements across the Secretariat and broader UN system;
2. Reviewing the implementation of existing mandates, with the aim of simplifying, streamlining, and better aligning resources with outcomes;
3. Exploring structural changes and program realignment to consolidate efforts, eliminate duplication, and reduce costs.

A cross-organizational Working Group, led by Under-Secretary-General Catherine Pollard, is developing a new business model for the Secretariat. This includes initiatives to consolidate functions, streamline the workforce, relocate services from high-cost locations, and expand automation and digital platforms.

Meanwhile, the mandate implementation review seeks to analyze how the UN carries out mandates from Member States, without revisiting the mandates themselves. Early findings underscore inefficiencies and duplication, with significant opportunity for reform.

Structural change proposals are being informed by input from nearly 50 senior leaders and will be refined through seven thematic “UN80 clusters” covering peace and security, development, humanitarian work, human rights, training, and specialized agencies.

Key budgetary impacts are expected by 2026 and 2027, with a target of meaningful cost reductions—starting with a proposed 20% reduction in posts in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and Peace Operations (DPO). Some upfront costs are anticipated, but longer-term savings, including reduced real estate footprints in high-cost cities, are expected to be substantial.

The UN80 process is being coordinated in consultation with Member States and UN staff.