



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY


27 May, 2014

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. František Ružička, Permanent Representative of Slovakia and H.E. Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni, Permanent Representative of Thailand, Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, inviting all delegations to the first informal meeting to discuss a draft Resolution on the General Assembly revitalisation on Monday, **2 June 2014 at 3PM.**

Affixed to the mentioned letter you will find the text of the draft Resolution, on which the Co-chairs are requesting that you send them, by Friday, **30 May 2014, 12 PM**, whatever comments and/or proposals you may have with regard to it.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


P.P. John W. Ashe

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Slovakia
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations

23 May 2014

Excellency,

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly for the 68th session, we would like to thank all delegations for their active participation during the previous five meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group. We believe that we will be able to move forward on all four clusters and thus improve the work of the General Assembly.

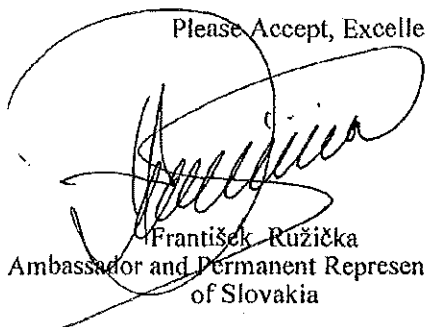
The next stage of our work will focus on informal consultations on the draft resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly to be adopted as part of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group. In this regard, and after consulting with the President of the General Assembly, we have the pleasure to enclose herewith the draft resolution based on discussions we had in the previous meetings and suggestions you proposed to us.

Delegations are invited to send their comments and/or proposals on this draft resolution no later than **12.00 p.m. on Friday 30 May 2013** to the Permanent Mission of Thailand and to the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the following addresses: paisanmfa@gmail.com and slavomir.kantor@mzv.sk.

The first informal meeting on the draft resolution will be held on **Monday, 2 June 2013 at 3 p.m. in Conference Room B (CB)**.

We look forward to your active participation and fruitful discussion on the proposed draft resolution.

Please Accept, Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.


František Ružička
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Slovakia


Norachit Sinhaseni
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Thailand

To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York

68/....Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 67/297 of 29 August 2013 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly¹,

Underlining the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

Reiterating that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the reform of the United Nations,

Recognizing the important role of the General Assembly in setting the global agenda and addressing major issues of concern, including relating to peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the role of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative principal organ of the UN,

Welcoming the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly during its 68th session,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, and the updated inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto; and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General.²

2. *Welcomes* the establishment of a web-link devoted to the revitalization of the work of the GA and encourages the Secretariat to continuously improve the web-link;

3. *Decides* to establish, at its sixty-ninth session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(a) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

(b) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

¹ 46/77, 47/233, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163, 55/14, 55/285, 56/509, 57/300, 57/301, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292, 62/276, 63/309, 64/301, 65/315 and 66/294

² A/68/774

4. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, and as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report at the sixty-ninth session.

Role and authority of the General Assembly

5. *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

6. *Recognizes* that non-implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, may diminish the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their implementation;

7. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with their respective functions and powers as enshrined in the Charter, and in this regard stresses the importance of further ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs and also with the Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General, and welcomes the commitment of the President of the General Assembly in this regard;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the General Assembly and international or regional forums and organizations dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as well as with civil society, where appropriate, and encourages exploration of appropriate actions or measures to further promote such interaction;

9. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and encourages the President of the General Assembly to continue this practice in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States on the preliminary programme in order to enable adequate level of participation and appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion to ensure results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates and, in this context, *welcomes* the initiative of the President of the General Assembly at

the sixty-eighth session to select "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!" as the theme of the general debate;

10. *Encourages* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and to enhance world public and media awareness of its work, and in light of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in 2015, further encourages the Secretariat to explore ways and measures to enhance the awareness of the important contribution of the Assembly in the global affairs, including but not limited to peace and security, development, protection of fundamental human rights, assistance to vulnerable communities and those in need, as well as promotion of principles of the UN Charter and adherence to international law;

Working methods

11. *Appreciates* the briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group about the working methods of the their respective Committees during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, and in this regard encourages the Main Committees:

(a) To ensure adequate coordination in their work while avoiding overlap and duplication;

(b) To elect the bureau of each committee at least three months in advance of the session for better coordination and for smoother hand-over of their work;

(c) To benefit from their respective Quickplace to facilitate the smooth organization and timely conclusion of their work;

(d) To share experiences, best practices and lessons learned concerning their respective working methods;

12. *Requests* each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-ninth session, as appropriate;

13. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the role of the General Committee to support the work of the General Assembly;

14. *Reiterates* its request that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at this sixty-ninth session, in consultation with Member States, continue consideration of and make concrete proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

15. *Decides* to conduct elections of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the Economic and Social Council not later than.....months before the elected members assume such responsibilities, beginning with the.....session.

16. *Reiterates* its invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates with a view to optimizing the number, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session;

17. Reaffirms resolution 57/301 of 13 March 2003, by which the Assembly *inter alia* decided that the general debate shall be held without interruption, and *encourages* scheduling future high-level meetings during the spring, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences, and without prejudice to the current practice of convening one high-level meeting in September at the beginning of each session of the Assembly.;

18. *Decides* to endorse the interim arrangement adopted in GA Decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013, recommending the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming five sessions: sixty-ninth to seventy-third sessions

19. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group to prepare long-term arrangements with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and to submit them to the Assembly not later than the seventy-second session and, in this regard, invites Member States to begin giving early attention to concluding a model arrangement which would come into effect as of the 74th Session of the General Assembly, with the Annex to the present Resolution containing an option to be considered in this context.

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

20. *Reaffirms* its commitment to continue, in the Ad Hoc working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its consideration of the revitalization of the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, and calls for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (1) of 24 January 1946, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 60/286 of 8 September 2006, in particular paragraph 17 to 22 of the annex thereto, and 64/301 of 13 September 2010;

21. *Reiterates* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to other executive heads in the organizations of the United Nations system, given the role of the Security Council in accordance with the

Article 97 of the Charter, and re-emphasizes the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be transparent and inclusive of all Member States;

22. *Notes* that the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General is expected to take place in 2016 and, as a result, encourages timely hearings or meetings of the General Assembly for an exchange of views and dialogue with candidates running for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations and encourages the President of the General Assembly to play a pro-active role in the selection of the Secretary-General, in accordance with the role accorded to him;

23. *Reiterates* the need for equal and fair distribution of senior management positions based on gender and geographical balance without prejudice to the appointment of candidates meeting the highest possible requirements

24. *Takes* note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the organizations of the United Nations system,

Strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

25. *Welcomes* the views expressed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the Assembly and its relationship with the Secretariat;

26. *Further welcomes* the measures already undertaken to strengthen the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, also taking note of the support provided by the General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division of DGACM to the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

27. *Commends* the initiative of the Permanent Mission of Finland for the convening, in cooperation with DGACM, of a retreat on the strengthening of the General Assembly, which brings together the incoming and outgoing presidencies of each session of the General Assembly.

28. *Encourages* the Presidents-elect of the General Assembly to meet with the Council of Presidents in the early part of the session, in order to benefit from the experiences of former Presidents in terms of best practices and lessons learned, as part of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

29. *Encourages* Presidents-elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender representation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

30. *Notes* that the activities of the President of the General Assembly have increased markedly in recent years, recalls provisions regarding support for the Office of the President of the Assembly in previous resolutions and expresses continued interest in seeking ways to further support the Office, in accordance with existing procedures, in particular rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, proposals to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures;

32. *Stresses* the importance of the contributions of Member States to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard notes with appreciation contributions that have been made to the Fund and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the Fund.

33. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the role, mandate and activities of the President;

Annex

**Guidelines on Election of Chairs and Rapporteurs
of the Main Committees of the United Nations General Assembly**

1. The allocation of chairmanships of the Main Committees for the next session of the General Assembly in case there is an intention to switch or waive chairmanship shall be determined by the regional groups involved with facilitation and coordination by the President of the General Assembly at least six months before the opening of the next session of the General Assembly.
2. The regional rotation of chairmanships of the Main Committees among the regional groups should be in accordance with the following pattern as of 74th Session of the UNGA:

	1	4	2	3	5	6	
74	GRULAC	AP	Africa	WEOG	AP	EEG	AP2
75	WEOG	Africa	AP	EEG	Africa	GRULAC	Africa2
76	Africa	GRULAC	WEOG	AP	EEG	AP	AP2
77	AP	Africa	EEG	GRULAC	WEOG	Africa	Africa2
78	EEG	AP	GRULAC	WEOG	Africa	GRULAC	GRULAC2
79	Africa	EEG	AP	Africa	GRULAC	WEOG	Africa2
	Africa2	AP2 Africa2	AP2	WEOG2	Africa2	GRULAC2	

3. The decision on switching or waiving the chairmanship of a Main Committee shall be taken by the regional groups involved in coordination with the President of the General Assembly. Such decision shall not affect the general pattern of allocation of chairmanships of the Main Committees among the regional groups for consecutive sessions.
4. A Rapporteur of a Main Committee should be elected from the regional group that held the chairmanship of the Committee at the previous session.