

ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFT
RESOLUTION A/C.2/68/L.69 ENTITLED "Culture and sustainable
development"

1. The present statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. In operative paragraph 20 of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.69, the General Assembly would request the President of the General Assembly to hold a one-day special thematic debate at the highest political level possible, within existing resources, by the end of 2014, to give due consideration to the role of culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and to present a Chair's summary of this meeting.

3. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 20, it is envisaged that the one-day special thematic debate will comprise one meeting in the morning and one meeting in the afternoon with interpretation in all six languages and it will be held between January and August of 2014. The two meetings will take the meetings entitlement of the General Assembly on the understanding that it will not meet in parallel with other meetings of the General Assembly. Accordingly, the dates of the meetings will have to be determined in consultation with the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management. Therefore, these meetings will not constitute additions to the meetings workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management.

4. Accordingly, adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.69 would not give rise to any financial implications under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

5. With regard to the request to the President of the General Assembly, contained in operative paragraph 20, to hold a one-day special thematic debate at the highest political level possible, within existing resources, attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section IV of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011 in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.