



**Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations**

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**Pro Tempore Presidency**

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**69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

**STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF COSTA RICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON  
BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARRIBEAN STATES, CELAC**

Item 118

**Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly**

New York, 14 November, 2014

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States.

Mr. Chairman,

The credibility and work of the United Nations is closely interlinked to the performance of the United Nations General Assembly. Supporting the promotion and efficiency of programs in this area is a must for the international community and the United Nations in particular.

We cannot speak of an Organization in line with the contemporary systems of international relations without the General Assembly being the center of the debates and the multilateral work. It should fully exercise its functions and powers. By further promoting this goal we will be contributing to improve an appropriate balance between the principal organs of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter.

The revitalization of the General Assembly is of paramount importance for a real reform of the United Nations and it will contribute to address current global issues, the solution of which exceed the limited capacity of a country or group of countries, regardless of their size or power.

Mr. Chairman,

As in previous years, we would like to refer to certain aspects of the working methods of the Sixth Committee.

We wish to start by highlighting that CELAC is pleased to recognize that some of the proposals suggested by our Community last year in this very forum, have been taken into account. In this regard, we appreciate your leadership, Mr. President, as well as the hard work of all the Members of the Bureau.

Additionally, we would like to thank the Secretariat for taking into account our views regarding specific measures to adopt agendas designed to achieve more ambitious goals. Keeping that in mind, we hope the Secretariat continues working together with the Sixth Committee and supporting its work.

In that sense, we would like to acknowledge all the efforts carried out by the Bureau and the Secretariat to avoid the overlapping of topics. This is a task that carries great importance in order to prevent that Sixth Committee items are scheduled simultaneously or at the same time than General Assembly items covered by the legal advisers.

In this regard, CELAC wishes to express its concern, for it has been reported that for the next General Assembly, the Sixth Committee will start its work one week later than usual. The implications of this decision should be thoroughly considered and measures should be taken to avoid negative impacts on our work.

Mr. Chairman,

CELAC wishes to thank you for the improvement in the delivering of the Reports, which greatly impacts the quality of the discussions, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution A/46/190, which establishes the six-week rule, under which the documents must be presented by the Secretariat in said timeframe, translated into all United Nations languages. The Community would like to request the Secretariat to abide by said rule in the future.

CELAC countries consider the Report of the International Law Commission as a particularly relevant topic, given its substantial content. The consideration of this important Report is complex, and its main substance comes from the contributions of Member States. The issues related to other important documents, like the Reports of special rapporteurs, must also be considered.

We believe it is necessary to have more interaction with the Commission and to facilitate scenarios where that could take place, including more interactive and closer discussions between the Commission and the Sixth Committee.

It is also necessary to ensure more financial support to the special rapporteurs, including the possibility to bring them to New York so that they have a direct exchange with the legal experts of Member States. Like in previous sessions, CELAC encourages the consideration of the possibility of holding half of the annual sessions of the Committee in New York. We request the Secretariat to advance on its considerations on the feasibility of these proposals so as to facilitate our discussions during the 70th session.

This would allow for a direct interaction between the Commission and the Sixth Committee in a manner not allowed by the debates at the General Assembly. Even if the substantive part of the work of the ILC would continue to take place in Geneva, providing significant time in New York would allow for a truly interactive dialogue with Sixth Committee experts.

CELAC celebrates this year's very successful International Law Week and wishes to congratulate those responsible for its impeccable organization, and for the variety and richness of the themes discussed in the different forums and parallel events in which, the active participation of delegations, must be highlighted.

Mr. Chairman,

While CELAC recognizes and appreciates the progress in the work planning, as well as the efforts made to achieve an ever more transparent, inclusive and efficient work, we wish to indicate some aspects that could still be optimized.

Next year due consideration should be given to the time allotted for the Sixth Committee. The allocation of time for the various agenda items should take into account the nature of each topic. We noted in this session that delegations did not have enough time for the negotiation of some resolutions, and as a result, many had to be rushed. This is not just a problem of program planning, rather it lies primarily in the responsibility of the facilitators and expect they will take this into account for future sessions, especially to avoid late negotiations experienced this week including the one concerning the resolution of the Committee of Host Country Relations. The same problem occurred with the time allocated to the meetings of the Working Groups. It was evidently not enough and we believe an option worth exploring is extending the session of the Sixth Committee.)

Likewise, granting of Observer Status is not an item that would reasonably allow for several requests to be introduced and discussed in one single session, as has occurred during the ongoing session as well as in several prior ones. We invite the Secretariat to take this into account, and also draw its attention to the fact that there is general consensus at the Sixth Committee on the importance of having available the constitutive instrument of each organization aspiring to observer status. This is one of the aspects repeatedly highlighted during the general discussion on observer status requests held at the 66<sup>th</sup>, 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> sessions, and once again this year.

CELAC also wishes to emphasize the importance of early availability of information on the names of those who will be serving as facilitators. We also wish to note that these appointments should take into account an equitable geographical representation.

Mr. Chairman,

When it comes to the improvement of the electronic tools and work platforms available for Member States, CELAC recognizes the receptivity shown by the Bureau and the Secretariat. The implementation of UniShare, has been useful and effective. We also find handy the transmission of communications and information contained in the Internet Web pages of the program.

PaperSmart has been very convenient as well.

Additionally, CELAC trusts that with your wisdom and leadership, these considerations can be translated into concrete actions that will enable us to continue improving our work. The Community also wishes to renew to you its highest appreciation and recognize your guidance.

Hence, we commend the joint efforts of both, the outgoing and incoming Bureau members who, together with the Secretariat, prepared a document on lessons learned on working methods seeking to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sixth Committee. It is an important exercise and CELAC encourages its continuation as a good practice that should endure in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to reiterate that, in an effort to improve the working methods of the Sixth Committee, transparency and inclusiveness are the cornerstones for developing our work and that they are, at the same time, the foundation of the work of the United Nations.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States reiterates its commitment to working on this issue and calls upon Member States to hold discussions thereon, in a transparent and constructive manner, with a view to attaining positive results for the international community.

Finally, Mr. Chair, CELAC reiterates its commitment to the revitalization of the GA, as the only intergovernmental body with universal membership. Our countries will continue to promote the strengthening of the role and authority of the General Assembly, in line with the UN Charter and relevant resolutions.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman