



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 June 2015


Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit a joint letter dated 1 June 2015, from H.E Vladimir Drobnjak, Permanent Representative of Croatia and H.E Wilfried I. Emvula, Permanent Representative of Namibia and Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, forwarding a draft resolution on the same subject matter.

I encourage you to submit your comments and proposals on the draft resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly by 8 June 2015. The first informal meeting on the draft resolution will be held on 10 June 2015. The venue will be communicated in the Journal.

I call upon you to actively participate in the upcoming meetings.

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



Sam K. Kutesa

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



1 June 2015

Excellency,

We are addressing you in our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG) and wish to thank all delegations for their active participation in the five meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group held since March 2015.

In the next stage of our work, we will engage in informal consultations on the draft resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, which is 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.

Delegations are welcome to send their comments and/or proposals on this draft resolution until **8 June 2015** to the following e-mail addresses: [msimunic@mvep.hr](mailto:msimunic@mvep.hr) and [omuntele@yahoo.com](mailto:omuntele@yahoo.com).

The first informal meeting on the draft resolution will be held on **Wednesday, 10 June 2015**. The venue will be announced in the Journal in a timely manner.

We are looking forward to your active participation in discussions on the proposed draft resolution.

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

Vladimir Drobnjak  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of Croatia

Wilfried I. Emvula  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of Namibia

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

## 69/. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 68/307 of 10 September 2014 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,<sup>1</sup>

*Mindful* of the 70th anniversary of the Organization of the United Nations in the year 2015 and the fact that the Organization has grown considerably since its creation both in number of the Member States and in issues on its agenda,

*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 overall reform of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

*Reaffirming also* the role and authority of the General Assembly in global matters of concern to the international community, including in global governance, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the Assembly during its sixty-ninth 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;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, accessible directly from the United Nations website, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating that web page and its substantive content;

3. *Decides* to establish, at its seventieth 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 seventieth session;

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-ninth session, and, as a

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<sup>1</sup> Resolutions 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, 66/294 and 67/297.

result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted at the seventieth session of the Assembly;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>3</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session;

#### **Role and authority of the General Assembly**

6. *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;

7. *Recognizes* that implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, enhances the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their full implementation;

8. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies 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;

9. *Welcomes* the continued practice of holding periodic informal briefings by the Secretary-General on his priorities, travels and most recent activities, including his participation in international meetings and events organized outside the United Nations, and encourages him to continue with this practice;

10. *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 the exploration of appropriate actions or measures, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly, in conformity with its relevant rules of procedure;

11. *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, including with regard to the preliminary programme of such debates, in order to enable an adequate level of participation and an appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion to facilitate, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates, and in this context welcomes the initiative of the President of the

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<sup>3</sup> A/69/793.

Assembly at the sixty-ninth session to select "Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda" as the theme of the general debate;

12. *Welcomes* the improvement in the quality of the annual reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly, and encourages the Council to make further improvement as necessary;

13. *Invites* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the Assembly and to enhance, in the light of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, world public and media awareness of the contribution made by the Assembly to the fulfilment of the goals of the Organization, as set out in the Charter;

### **Working methods**

14. *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 their respective Committees during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly;

15. *Reaffirms* existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including annex C of resolution 58/316, operative paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313 and cluster III of resolution 60/286;

16. *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 during the seventieth session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate;

17. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventieth session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make 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;

18. *Recalls* annex VIII of the Rules of Procedure containing Guidelines on the Rationalization of the Agenda of the General Assembly;

19. *Further recalls* operative paragraph 29 of the annex to resolution 68/1, which states that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, especially its Second and Third Committees, need to consider and take steps towards the rationalization of their agendas, with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues;

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

21. *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 and the effectiveness of the meetings, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session;

22. *Reaffirms* in this regard resolution 57/301 of 13 March 2003, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided that the general debate shall be held without interruption, and encourages the scheduling of future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, 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;

23. *Reiterates* its request that the Ad Hoc Working Group prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and that it submit them to the Assembly no later than at the seventy-second session, and in this regard invites Member States to present proposals and begin early on to give attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, with the annex to resolution 68/307 containing an option to be considered in this context;

24. *Encourages* Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs of the Main Committees and in the position of the President of the General Assembly;

25. *Encourages* Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents;

26. *Underlines* the need to fully implement and observe rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which provides that, during the sessions of the Assembly, the *Journal of the United Nations* shall be published in the languages of the Assembly, from within existing resources;

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

27. *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 nomination, selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, and calls for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 60/286 of 8 September 2006, in particular paragraphs 17 to 22 of the annex thereto, and 64/301 of 13 September 2010, keeping in mind the applicable procedures in the rules of procedure, including rule 141, while acknowledging existing relevant Assembly practices;

28. *Reiterates* that the process of nominating candidates, 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 roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, and re-emphasizes in particular the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be transparent and inclusive of all Member States;

29. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council to start the process of Secretary General's nomination by joint invitation to all Member States to submit the candidates within a defined timeframe;

30. *Encourages* publishing in a timely manner the consolidated list of candidates for the post;

31. *Notes* that the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General is expected to take place in 2016, and as a result encourages, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the Presidents of the General Assembly, in particular those of the 70<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> session, to actively support this process in accordance with the role accorded to him or her by relevant resolutions, including this one;<sup>4</sup>

32. *Stresses* the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender and geographical balance, while meeting the highest possible requirements on the appointment of executive heads of the Organization;

33. *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,<sup>5</sup> proposing that the General Assembly conduct hearings or meetings with candidates running for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations;

34. *Decides* that the General Assembly, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, shall conduct hearings or meetings with candidates running for the post of Secretary-General, thus ensuring transparency and inclusivity of the process to all Member States;

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

35. *Notes with appreciation* 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<sup>6</sup> and measures already undertaken in this regard, while continuing to explore additional measures where feasible, and notes the support provided by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to the Office of the President of the Assembly;

36. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of periodically briefing Member States on their activities, including official travel;

37. *Commends* the initiative of convening a retreat on the strengthening of the General Assembly, which brings together the incoming and outgoing presidencies of each session of the Assembly, and in this regard takes note of the summary of the proceedings of the retreat held on 26 and 27 June 2014;<sup>7</sup>

38. *Encourages* exchanges between the President-elect of the General Assembly and the Council of Presidents so that Presidents-elect may 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 Assembly;

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<sup>4</sup> Resolutions 51/241, 60/286 and 64/301.

<sup>5</sup> A/65/71, annex.

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<sup>7</sup> A/69/562.

39. *Requests* the outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly to brief their successors on the lessons learned and best practise and encourages holding a structured and constructive exchange of experiences between them in the transition period of three months;

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

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session of the General Assembly on sources of the funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions, and for more clarification on the budgetary basis for the provision of such support by the Secretariat;

42. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure, from within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated dedicated Secretariat staff, with responsibility for coordinating the transition between Presidents, managing interactions between the President and the Secretary-General and the preservation of institutional memory;

43. *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 Assembly;

44. *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;

45. *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;

46. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session of the Assembly on the role, mandate and activities of the President.