

3 March 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of
the General Assembly**

**Co-Chairs of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on GA Revitalization,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

I am pleased to join you today for this important meeting. Given the General Assembly's central role as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, the efforts of this Ad-Hoc Working Group are of critical importance.

The revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is an integral part of the broader efforts aimed at strengthening the entire Organization. Your deliberations will provide valuable contributions to those efforts and should aim at ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Assembly.

Since the start of the 69th session, I have made it a priority to engage regularly and exchange views with the Presidents of the other principal organs of the United Nations; including, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. These interactions are key to increasing cooperation and coordination as a means of bolstering the Organization's effectiveness.

I have also held close consultations with the membership and regional groups on the agenda of the Assembly and priorities of this session. Furthermore, I have maintained close contact with the Secretary-General, with whom I meet regularly to discuss the common agenda of the United Nations.

Given its important role in the Assembly's work, I also convened a first-ever luncheon with members of the General Committee, with a view towards enriching our interactions to better serve the Assembly's undertakings.

As part of this approach of information exchange and open dialogue, in January, I provided Member States with a comprehensive briefing on the work, activities and accomplishments thus far in the session, as well as the major forthcoming events and activities.

My interactive dialogue with civil society at the beginning of the year further underscores my commitment to engaging with a broad range of stakeholders, and ensuring that our Assembly benefits from their valuable contributions.

Excellencies,

Ensuring the implementation of its resolutions, including those related to revitalization is critical for enhancing the role and authority of the General Assembly. In this regard, I wish to stress the importance of ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Assembly's work.

As detailed in my briefing to Member States, we need to improve the working methods of the General Assembly and its main committees, including the Fifth Committee – which concluded its work on 29th December last year. As I said then, and I wish to reiterate today, the recurring challenges of the Fifth Committee should be addressed in the context of the GA revitalization process.

The experience of the recent election of judges to the International Court of Justice is another area the Adhoc Working Group should consider in order to explore ways in which possible deadlocks can be handled better.

Excellencies,

There is need for improved coordination in the scheduling of high-level meetings during the General Debate, with a view to rationalizing the number and distribution of such events. We must always aim to preserve the integrity of the General Debate by enabling delegations to have time and space to adequately participate.

I wish to welcome the progress that has been made with regard to improving the Assembly's working methods. As a result of this Working Group's efforts, starting with the 70th session, the elections of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of ECOSOC will take place about six months prior to their assumption of responsibilities. This will, I believe, enable the new members to prepare appropriately for the tasks in these organs.

The Working Group should also continue to consider the issue of the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General. I hope that your deliberations will contribute to advancing the transparency and inclusiveness of that process.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

The role and mandate of the Office of the President of the General Assembly continues to expand and evolve, which has resulted in a considerable increase in its workload over time. This is reflected inter alia by an increase in the number and complexity of items on the Assembly's agenda.

In light of this, I would like to underscore the importance of ensuring that the Office of the President of the General Assembly has adequate and predictable resources from the regular budget to enable future presidencies deliver on their responsibilities. I thank all Member States who have made contributions to the Trust Fund and those who seconded staff to my Office. I look forward to the report of the Group so that we can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the General Assembly.

I thank you for your kind attention.