

1 December 2010

Sixty-fifth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 118
Revitalization of the work of the
General Assembly

**Draft decision submitted by the Chair of the Second Committee, H. E.
Ms. Enkhsetseg Ochir (Mongolia), on the basis of informal consultations**

Improving the working methods of the Second Committee

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the 7th meeting of the Second Committee at its sixty-fifth session, held on 8 October 2010,

Recalling its resolutions 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 of 1 July 2004, 59/313 of 12 September 2005, 60/286 of 8 September 2006, 64/301 of 13 September 2010

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the full implementation of its resolutions on the revitalization of its work;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of maintaining the intergovernmental nature of the work of the Second Committee while encouraging the participation of relevant experts in the general debate and debates on individual agenda items as appropriate. Encourages, in this respect, the Bureau of the Committee to meet at an early stage to select relevant experts to address the general debate and debates on individual agenda items, and emphasizes that such selection should ensure, inter alia, a variety of perspectives and appropriate geographic and gender balance;

3. With regard to the general debate of the Second Committee:

(a) *Decides* to maintain the general debate, while bearing in mind the need to avoid unnecessary duplications and overlaps in statements during the general debate and debates on individual agenda items;

(b) *Decides* to maintain the current time limits of 7 minutes for individual Member States and 10 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States during the general debate, and urged delegations to adhere to those time limits;

(c) *Encourages* the Chair of the Committee to continue the practice of providing a summary of the general debate of the Committee.

4. With regard to debates on individual agenda items of the Second Committee:

(a) *Decides* to maintain debates on individual agenda items, while bearing in mind the need to avoid unnecessary duplications and overlaps in statements;

(b) *Decides* to maintain, as appropriate, the current time limits of 5 minutes for individual Member States and 7 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States during debates on individual agenda items, and urged delegations to adhere to those time limits;

(c) *Decides* to explore possibilities for rationalizing debates on individual agenda items, including, as encouraged by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/313, through more interactive and dynamic debates with a view to contributing to intergovernmental decision-making.

5. With regard to draft resolutions submitted to the Second Committee:

(a) *Reaffirms* the sovereign right of Member States to submit proposals in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

(b) *Decides* that the Bureau of the Committee shall keep multiple mandatory deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions, while ensuring that those deadlines are also realistic taking into account the complexities of draft proposals to be negotiated. The Committee shall strictly adhere to the deadlines established by the Bureau, and submissions after their expiration shall not be accepted. Any request made prior to the expiration of the deadlines for their extension shall be considered by the Bureau on a case-by-case basis;

(c) *Reaffirms* the recommendations made in its resolutions 57/270 B, 58/126 and 60/286 that General Assembly resolutions should be more concise, focused and action-oriented, and preambular paragraphs in resolutions of the Assembly should normally be kept to the minimum, and encouraged Member States to provide in draft resolutions references to sources of the relevant language.

6. With regard to panel discussions and side events of the Second Committee:

(a) *Decides* to continue the practice of holding panel discussions and side events so as to enhance informal, indepth discussions and to bring together experts from various fields without prejudicing the progress of the substantive work of the Committee;

(b) *Decides* to restrict the number of panel discussions and side events to a maximum of 6 at each session of the Committee in order to avoid overloading its work;

(c) *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring, inter alia, a variety of perspectives and appropriate geographic and gender balance in the selection of keynote speakers and panelists for panel discussions and side events.

7. *Reaffirms* the need to implement paragraph 9 of Part B of the Annex to its resolution 58/126, which, inter alia, stipulates that "the full Bureaux of the Main Committees shall be elected three months in advance of the next session" in order to foster better advance planning and preparation of the work;

8. *Decides* to continue its efforts to improve its working methods, including the rationalization of its agenda as requested in General Assembly resolutions 60/286 and 64/301 within the framework of the existing agenda item on the "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly".
