

**Sixth Committee UNGA 75 - Report of the Committee on Relations with the
Host Country (agenda item 171), 22 October 2020**
HCC Chairman's Statement

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure to address today the Sixth Committee in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in order to introduce this year's Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in document A/75/26, Supplement No. 26.

The Report was prepared in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 74/195 of 18 December 2019 and follows the structure of previous years. It is divided into four chapters:

- Chapter 1 contains a brief introduction.
- Chapter 2 elaborates on the membership, composition, terms of reference and organization of the work of the Committee.
- Chapter 3 summarizes the discussion on the topics dealt with by the Committee during the reporting period.
- Finally, Chapter 4 contains the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee.

Annexed to the Report is the list of topics that are under consideration by the Committee, as adopted in 1982 and modified in 1994.

Mr. Chair,

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country is an important forum in which representatives of Member States seek to resolve different problems faced by the diplomatic community through a frank and constructive exchange of views and cooperation of all concerned. It remains an open, transparent, and flexible body where any interested delegation can participate in it as an observer. Moreover, the Committee is the only body in the UN system which is mandated to consider matters in relation to

the host country and then report thereon to the General Assembly and make recommendations.

During the reporting period, issues important to the UN Membership were raised regarding the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement between the United Nations and the United States. Issues concerning entry visas, travel restrictions and banking operations of Permanent Missions were of particular concern.

The Committee will continue its efforts in addressing all issues that are on its agenda a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with the international law.

Mr. Chair,

In the Report and the Recommendations and Conclusions therein, we have tried to fully reflect our discussions throughout the year, while noting that a number of the issues raised in the report remain unresolved. Hence, there is new language, *inter alia*, on issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States and members of the Secretariat, and the denial of a visa to a Foreign Minister, on travel regulations issued by the host country with regard to personnel of certain missions and the requirement for staff of one Mission to relocate, as well as on the role of the Secretary-General in the work of the Committee, in line with General Assembly resolution 2819 of 1971, and with respect to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

In line with these Recommendations and Conclusions, I wish to reassure you of my personal commitment to help address all these issues, in a spirit of compromise and in full regard for the interests of the Organization. I intend to continue to engage with the representatives of the host country, affected Member States and with the Secretary General and the Legal Counsel to find solutions to resolve all outstanding issues in line with the Headquarters Agreement.

Allow me to note that what is important is that the relevant parties are engaged in a process that they consider to be constructive, can yield results and should continue, as more work remains to be done. At the Committee's informal online meeting on 17 September, the Legal Counsel has informed us that this remains the best avenue for finding acceptable solutions.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Committee, the Host Country section of the United States Mission to the United Nations, the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, and all observer delegations who participated in the meetings of the Committee during this reporting period, for their support and excellent cooperation.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the Legal Counsel for their active involvement in our Committee's discussions and for their continuous efforts at various levels in addressing important outstanding issues.

Finally, I wish to express my deep and sincere appreciation to the Secretary of the Committee and to the UN Secretariat for their continuous guidance and support throughout the year.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.