



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 December 2017

Excellency,

At the start of its 72<sup>nd</sup> Session, the General Assembly reviewed previous efforts aimed at rationalizing the procedures and organization of the Assembly. In particular, paragraph 11 of resolution 59/313, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, “*strongly urges all officers presiding over meetings of the General Assembly to start such meetings on time*”. Other resolutions and debates at the General Assembly, most recently, the resolution 71/262 on the pattern of conferences, have recognised that delays and late starts seriously impact the efficiency of the Assembly’s meetings.

I am committed to ensuring the implementation of General Assembly resolutions, as well as to strengthening the working methods of the Assembly, in line with Member States’ views. As such, I would like to make a renewed appeal for Member States to ensure that speakers are present in the General Assembly Hall in time for the delivery of their statements. In that regard, I draw your attention to the recent practice of circulating the list of speakers one day in advance of General Assembly plenary meetings. I hope this initiative will serve to further support the engagement of Member States in the work of the United Nations General Assembly.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Lajčák".

Miroslav Lajčák

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