



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 May 2018

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to forward herewith a letter dated 17 May 2018 from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG), H.E. Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez, Permanent Representative of Colombia, and H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drobnyak, Permanent Representative of Croatia, transmitting the zero draft of the draft resolution on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly.

The Co-Chairs will present the zero draft in a briefing, which will take place on Friday 25 May 2018 at 11 a.m. in Conference room 4.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miroslav Lajčák

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



17 May 2018

Excellency,

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG), we wish to thank all delegations for their active participation in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group held in the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

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 by the end of the seventy-second session. 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.

The Co-Chairs have listened carefully to the positions and views of Member States and groups expressed during our thematic meetings, as well as the new initiatives proposed. The attached draft represents our efforts to best reflect those positions, and we trust will serve as a good basis for our deliberations on the text in the weeks to come.

We will present the zero draft on **25 May, at 11 am in Conference Room 4**, with the aim to provide rationale for changes and new elements in the text. During the briefing, general views of member states on the zero draft are welcome, but we intend not to engage in any textual amendments of the text at that point.

The first reading of the draft will take place on **4 June at 10 am in Conference Room 11**.

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

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

Handwritten signature of María Emma Mejía Vélez.

María Emma Mejía Vélez  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Colombia

Handwritten signature of Vladimir Drobnjak.

Vladimir Drobnjak  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Croatia

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

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 71/323 of 8 September 2017 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,<sup>1</sup>

*Acknowledging* that resolution 71/323 constitutes an important contribution to the strengthening of the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly as established by the Charter of the United Nations,

*Underlining* the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

*Mindful* of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations in 2020, and *recognizing* therein the opportunity to further strengthen the Organization and improve its work,

*Reiterating* that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

*Emphasizing* the need to align the agenda of the General Assembly in full support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Taking note* of the calls to increase the efficiency of the work of the General Assembly through streamlining its agenda, including by elimination of duplication and overlap of agenda items;

*Recognizing* the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter, and acknowledging its role and authority, established in Article 10 of the Charter, to make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both, on questions or matters within the scope of the Charter, except as provided in Article 12 thereof,

*Emphasizing* the increasing relevance of the General Assembly in a context of emerging global challenges,

*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,

*Mindful* of the need to provide all missions, regardless of their size and capacities, with ample opportunity to participate in the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees,

*Mindful* that we have yet to achieve full gender and geographical balance within the United Nations, while encouraging further intergovernmental efforts in this regard, and *convinced* of the need to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men from all regional groups in their access to senior decision-making positions, including to the post of Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity,

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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, 67/297, 68/307, 69/321 and 70/305.

*Welcoming* in this regard the efforts of the Secretary-General in achieving gender parity at senior management level, and in particular the initiation of the System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity,

*Affirming* that the work of the President of the General Assembly and of the Office of the President of the General Assembly shall be guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the Assembly during its seventy-second 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 Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto<sup>2</sup>;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, accessible directly from the United Nations website, which exists in all six official languages, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating regularly and equally that web page and its substantive content in a cost-effective manner;

3. *Decides* to establish, at its seventy-third 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 seventy-third 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 seventy-second session and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted at the seventy-third 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 seventy-third 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;

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<sup>2</sup> A/72/

<sup>3</sup> A/72/

7. *Calls for* timely preparations for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations;

8. *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;

9. *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, in particular the Secretary-General;

10. *Recalls* the 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 invites the Secretary-General to continue this practice;

11. *Welcomes* the holding of an interactive and comprehensive dialogue between the Permanent Missions and the Secretariat on 5 April 2018, as mandated by resolution [71/323](#), aimed at improving the work of the Secretariat in its interaction with the Permanent Missions, and *requests* the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue to convene the interactive dialogue within the framework of the Ad Hoc Working Group, aimed at:

(a) Identifying issues in the interaction of the Secretariat with the Permanent Missions;

(b) Identifying solutions in better meeting the needs and requirements of the Permanent Missions regarding standard operating procedures used at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

12. *Reiterates* its decision to hold thematic dialogues periodically during the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and to review this arrangement at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly;

13. *Requests* the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group to circulate to Member States and the Secretariat the issues raised during the official meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group in order to receive written feedback from the Secretariat on concerns raised by the Permanent Missions, *welcomes* the circulation by the Co-Chairs of a written summary of the interactive and comprehensive dialogues, and *calls for* a continuation of this practice;

14. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the active participation by the Secretariat during the seventy-second session, and in particular *notes* with appreciation the establishment of a “one-stop-shop” as a single entry point for requesting meetings services, while encouraging the Secretariat to make similar arrangements for other services provided;

15. *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;

16. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to organize such debates in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States, including with regard to the frequency and preliminary programme of such debates, in order to enable an adequate level of participation and an appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion during the debates so as to enable all interested delegations to state their positions and to facilitate, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates, and in this context *welcomes* the initiative of the President of the Assembly at its seventy-second session to select “Focusing on people: Striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet” as the theme of the general debate;

17. *Requests*, in this regard, the President of the General Assembly to limit high-level meetings to current issues of critical importance to the international community, with the interest of the wider membership in mind and with a focus on the most vulnerable, while encouraging the allocation of events of a strictly sectoral or thematic nature to the six Main Committees;

18. *Commends* improvements in the quality of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, including as presented in the note by the President of the Security Council,<sup>4</sup> and welcomes the willingness of the Council to continue to consider other suggestions concerning improvements to the annual report;

19. *Invites* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, as well as Member States and the President of the General Assembly, to continue their efforts to raise the visibility of the Assembly and to enhance 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;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, under relevant agenda items, to bring to the attention of the Member States constraints that have prevented the Secretary-General from implementing those provisions of General Assembly resolutions that are addressed to the Secretariat;

#### **Working methods**

21. *Reaffirms* existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution [58/316](#) of 1 July 2004, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution [59/313](#) of 12 September 2005, cluster III of the annex to resolution [60/286](#) of 8 September 2006 and resolution [69/321](#), in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof;

22. *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 seventy-third session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate;

23. *Reiterates* the importance of the established practice of holding handover meetings of the outgoing and incoming bureaux to exchange views on outcomes and the upcoming agenda, and of presenting a report by the Chairs of the Main Committees to their successors on best practices and lessons learned;

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24. *Requests* the President-elect of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of meeting with the incoming members of the General Committee before the beginning of the regular session in order to review the proposed programme of work of the Main Committees, with a view to increasing their efficiency, improving complementarity, and avoiding overlap of meetings of the Main Committees to the extent possible, in order to allow for wider participation by Member States;

25. *Calls* for the continuation of the practice of periodical meetings between six Chairs of the Main Committees during the session of the General Assembly to share best practices and increase the coherence and complementarity of the work of the Main Committees;

26. *Welcomes* efforts to afford elected members of the Security Council appropriate opportunities to prepare for their tenure, and also welcomes the note by the President of the Security Council in which the elected Council members are invited to observe some of its meetings and activities as from 1 October immediately preceding their term of membership;<sup>5</sup>

27. *Calls upon* Member States to make concrete proposals for biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the General Assembly, and to submit them to the General Committee for further considerations in line with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States;

28. *Encourages* the inclusion of a sunset clause in General Assembly resolutions on specific issues, in order to increase efficiency of its work;

29. *Recalls* its resolution [48/264](#) of 29 July 1994, by which it adopted the Guidelines on the Rationalization of the Agenda of the General Assembly;

30. *Also recalls* the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council and the Assembly, as well as all other related forums, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls for the continuation of such efforts during the seventy-third session of the Assembly;

#### PLACEHOLDER - 2030 ALIGNMENT

31. *Emphasizes* the need to review the number of members serving on the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in line with principles of efficiency and equitable geographical and gender representation, and bearing in mind that the last increase in membership was decided upon in 1977;

32. *Recalls* rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and encourages the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of these rules, within their respective mandates;

33. *Also recalls* rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and calls for strict adherence by each speaker to the time limits in the Assembly, where applicable, and in this regard *takes note* of the

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<sup>5</sup> [S/2016/619](#).

practice of an automatic microphone cut-off introduced in several UN bodies;

34. *Invites* the Chairs of meetings of the General Assembly and United Nations conferences, especially when there is very limited time available for debate, to consider recommending the “all protocol observed” principle, whereby participants are encouraged to refrain from listing standard protocol expressions during their statements;

35. *Recommends* that in establishing the list of speakers for the general debate of the General Assembly, in terms of speaking order, the interests of those United Nations Member States whose constitutional or legal order prevents their Head of State from taking part in the general debate, be fully taken in account;

36. *Calls upon* Member States to be mindful of the speed of statement delivery, bearing in mind the need for accuracy of interpretation;

37. *Urges* all presiding officers and Member States to strictly adhere to the scheduled starting time of meetings of the General Assembly and its Main Committees;

38. *Calls upon* all officers chairing or facilitating intergovernmental processes not to conduct informal negotiations beyond regular working hours in order to allow for the active and constructive participation of all Permanent Missions in the work of the United Nations;

39. *Decides* to continue to consider ways to rationalize the number of side events held during the high-level segment of the general debate, bearing in mind the need to enhance its decorum and significance, and encourages the scheduling of side events at United Nations Headquarters outside of the hours when the general debate is being held;

40. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretariat to provide a tool to allow Member States and the United Nations system to upload and publish information about side events organized by them at United Nations Headquarters throughout the year;

41. *Recalls* its resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963, 2837 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 45/45 of 28 November 1990, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 58/126 of 19 December 2003 and 58/316, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to continue making full use of the General Committee throughout the session, with a view to reviewing the programme of work of the Assembly and its Main Committees, in line with rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

42. *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 the meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity, effectiveness and distribution throughout the session, and to consider ways to decrease the number of high-level events held during the general debate;

43. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in order to enhance transparency, to continue attaching the list of speakers at high-level thematic debates organized by the President to the summary of those events;

44. *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 General Assembly;

45. *Decides* to explore during the 73rd session of the General Assembly the options to change the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly<sup>6</sup>, starting with the 75th session, and in this regard *requests* the Secretariat to brief the AHWG on the possible financial and logistical implications of the following options, based on the premise that any such change will not bear an effect on the beginning of the general debate in September<sup>7</sup>: a) beginning on the Tuesday of the first week in September; b) beginning on the Tuesday of the last week in July; c) beginning on the Tuesday of the third week in January;

46. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Secretariat, in particular its protocol and security services, to hold discussions with all Member States on all aspects related to the organization of the high-level segment of the general debate and any other activities that may have special organizational requirements;

47. *Decides* to establish the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming ten sessions, namely from the seventy-fourth to the eighty-third session, as contained in Annex I of the present resolution;

48. *Decides* further to prepare arrangements concerning the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the following sessions no later than at its eighty-second session,

49. *Encourages* Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of the Chairs and bureau members of the Main Committees as well as the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, where applicable;

50. *Decides* to endorse a code of conduct to guide the conduct of election campaigns by Member States, with a view to improving the standards of transparency, accountability and equity, as outlined in Annex II of the present resolution, and *calls on* Member States to follow its provisions;

51. *Welcomes* the efficient implementation of paragraphs 47 and 48 of resolution 71/323 relating to the conduct of elections in the General Assembly and the Main Committees;

52. *Decides* that during the vote counting procedure, no use of mobile phones or/and other electronic communication devices shall be permitted in the room where counting is being conducted, thus ensuring the confidentiality of elections and integrity of secret ballots;

53. *Recommends* holding discussions with representatives of candidate countries to the Security Council and Human Rights Council, to be modelled after the highly successful interactive dialogues with candidates to the post of Secretary-General and President of the General Assembly;

54. *Encourages* Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs and reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents, and in this regard *requests* the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such services;

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<sup>6</sup> As contained in Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

<sup>7</sup> General Debate shall start on Tuesday of the fourth week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day, and shall be held without interruption over a period of nine working days.

55. *Welcomes* with appreciation the changes to the format, production and editing of the Journal of the United Nations, in line with paragraphs 51 and 52 of resolution 71/323;

56. *Calls upon* all relevant intergovernmental bodies to continue reviewing the need for and content of the *Journal* summaries of their meetings and other announcements, and to take the steps necessary with a view to ensuring a more streamlined format for the *Journal of the United Nations*;

57. *Reiterates* the need to produce the *Journal* in all six official languages in strict compliance with rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

58. *Requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group, on a yearly basis, on the progress achieved on the gradual extension, in a cost-neutral manner, of the information in the *Journal of the United Nations* published in the six official languages;

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

59. *Reiterates* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to the executive heads of 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 emphasizes in particular that the process of selection of the Secretary-General is guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, building on the best practices and the participation of all Member States;

60. *Stresses*, in particular, the need to ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the post of Secretary-General, who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and who demonstrates a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills;

61. *Reaffirms its commitment* to continue, in the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its thorough consideration of the issues under the third thematic cluster of the Working Group, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, including the examination of innovative ways to improve the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General and other executive heads in all its aspects, and recalls all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292 of 2 August 2007, 62/276 of 15 September 2008, 63/309 of 14 September 2009, 64/301 of 13 September 2010, 65/315 of 12 September 2011, 66/294 of 17 September 2012, 67/297 of 29 August 2013, 68/307, 69/321, 70/305, and 71/323 reaffirming the applicable procedures set out in the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in particular rule 141, and acknowledging existing relevant practices of the Assembly;

62. *Calls upon* the President of the General Assembly to monitor and review the implementation by the Assembly of these resolutions;

63. *Recalls* in particular its resolutions 11(I), 69/321 and 70/305, and their implementation in the process of selection and appointment of the

ninth Secretary-General, *takes note* of the repeated Member States' calls to solidify the process based on the lessons learned and in strict compliance with Article 97 of the Charter, and *requests* in this regard the co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group to make a compilation of the current practices and open issues for reference only, based on the views of Member States to be expressed during the seventy-third session, as well as the discussions previously held within the Ad Hoc Working Group on the third revitalization cluster;

64. *Decides* to review the Oath of Office of the Secretary-General during its seventy-third session;

65. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General towards achieving equal and fair distribution in terms of the gender and geographical balance of the executive heads of the United Nations system and the Senior Management Group of the Organization, while securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, *commends* in particular the fact that gender parity was achieved in the Senior Management Group, and *requests* that further effective measures be taken in this regard;

66. *Recalls* its resolution [52/12 B](#) of 19 December 1997, in particular paragraph 2 thereof, in which it notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States, *stresses* that the process of appointments to senior posts by the Secretary-General within the Organization should be inclusive and transparent, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and as set out in the Charter, and in this context *calls upon* the Secretary-General to announce such vacancies well in advance;

67. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to establish and share with Member States formal principles to govern the selection to senior posts appointed by the Secretary-General;

68. *Stresses* the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender balance and as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard recalls its resolutions [46/232](#) of 2 March 1992 and [51/241](#), adopted without a vote, which contain the principles that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity are the paramount considerations in the recruitment and performance of international civil servants and that, as a general rule, there should be no monopoly on senior posts in the United Nations system by nationals of any State or group of States;

69. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General continue his ongoing efforts to ensure the attainment of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance in the Secretariat, while recalling its resolution [71/263](#) of 23 December 2016, in particular the paragraphs thereof related to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance;

70. *Requests* the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat to continue with the practice of providing a briefing to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the gender balance and regional origin of the executive heads of the United Nations system and the Senior Management Group of the Organization;

71. *Requests* the Secretariat, the Specialized Agencies, the Funds and Programmes to maintain updated the information regarding the past and present Executive Heads on their official websites in order to strengthen the transparency, but also the accessibility to historical institutional memory;

## **Strengthening the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly**

72. *Commends* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session for strengthening the transparency and inclusivity of his Office, including through continuing with the practices outlined in paragraph 66 of resolution 71/323, and also for voluntarily presenting the summary of his personal financial disclosure, and *requests* future Presidents of the Assembly to follow these good practices;

73. *Reiterates* the provisions contained in paragraphs 80, 82 and 83 of resolution 71/323 and *calls for* the continuation of those practices;

74. *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 accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President and its relationship with the Secretariat and the 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;

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

76. *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 retreat held on 20 July 2017;

77. *Stresses* the importance of continuing with the practice of providing a handover report from the President of the Assembly to their successors and all Member States, as well as of further efforts to improve archiving and record-keeping by the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

78. *Strongly welcomes* the circulation of vision statements and organization of informal dialogues with candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly;

79. *Highly commends* the President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly for introducing the Morning Dialogues, envisaged as informal discussions amongst Permanent Representatives on the substantive and practical aspects of work of the General Assembly, and *strongly encourages* the continuation of this valuable practice;

80. *Further invites* the Presidents of the General Assembly to maintain the practice of holding monthly meetings with the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in order to ensure cooperation, coordination and exchange of information on crosscutting issues related to the work of the Organization;

81. *Expresses* deep satisfaction that in the seventy-third session, and for the fourth time in its history, the General Assembly shall have a female President, in this regard *invites* Member States to consider presenting women as candidates for the position of future Presidents of the General Assembly, and *encourages* Presidents-elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly, both in terms of numbers and level of responsibility;

82. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the sources of funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the General 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;

83. *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 to, in an efficient and capable manner, coordinate the transition between Presidents, manage interactions between the President and the Secretary-General and preserve institutional memory, *welcomes* the provision by Member States of staff from their respective Permanent Missions to be seconded to the Office of the President, and *encourages* the continuation of this existing good practice;

84. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly shall have full authority and flexibility in determining the number and grade of the positions to be filled annually as general temporary assistance within the level of resources approved by the General Assembly in the UN Regular Budget for supporting the Presidents of the General Assembly;

85. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General and its invitation to the heads of specialized agencies, funds and programmes, upon request by the President of the General Assembly, to consider seconding staff to work in the Office of the President of the General Assembly on a more systematic basis;

86. *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 General 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, as well as to continue discussions within the Ad Hoc Working Group on further steps to strengthen the Office;

87. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2020, proposals to review the budget allocation of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, in accordance with existing procedures and taking into account the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the issue, and in this connection looks forward to considering such proposals during the main part of its seventy-third session;

88. *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 the contributions that have been made to the fund, and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the fund and to allow for unspent contributions from previous sessions to be made available for succeeding terms;

89. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-third session of the Assembly on the implementation of all mandates accorded to him under the present resolution and previous relevant resolutions.

## Annex I – Pattern for the rotation of Chairs of the Main Committees

<i>Session</i>	<i>First Committee</i>	<i>Fourth Committee</i>	<i>Second Committee</i>	<i>Third Committee</i>	<i>Fifth Committee</i>	<i>Sixth Committee</i>
Seventy-fourth	Latin American and Caribbean States	Asia-Pacific States	African States	Western European and other States	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States
Seventy-fifth	Western European and other States	African States	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Latin American and Caribbean States
Seventy-sixth	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States
Seventy-seventh	Asia-Pacific States	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States
Seventy-eighth	Eastern European States	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States	Asia-Pacific States
Seventy-ninth	Latin American and Caribbean States	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States
Eightieth	Western European and other States	Latin American and Caribbean States	African States	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States
Eighty-first	Asia-Pacific States	African States	Eastern European States	Western European and other States	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States
Eighty-second	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States	Asia-Pacific States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States
Eighty-third	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States	Western European and other States

## **Annex II - Code of Conduct for Election Campaigns**

This Code provides essential principles to guide actions of Member States during the campaigning periods and elections for the United Nations bodies, with the view to ensure a level electoral playing field, with full respect towards established practices and traditions of the United Nations five regional groups.

This Code is based on the principles of universality, non-discrimination and equity of the United Nations membership and the right of every Member State to be elected for any given United Nations body, in line with the established election procedure.

With a view to improve the standards of transparency, accountability and equity, the Code calls all United Nations Member States to:

- Focus on merits of candidacy;
- Consider a first-time candidacy as possible additional value in the overall evaluation of the merits of the candidate country;
- Strictly respect the secrecy of the voting procedure;
- Refrain from negative campaigning and portraying other candidate countries in a derogatory light;
- Provide the wider United Nations membership with the opportunity to engage, in a thematic meetings with the candidate country regarding its commitment to the goals and principles of the body it wishes to serve on;
- Declare their campaign activities in a voluntary campaign statement, including the electoral events respective Member State has hosted and the type of gifts or souvenirs it has presented as a part of its elections campaign;
- Use good judgement in receiving election campaign related gifts.