



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

30 May 2019

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to forward herewith a letter dated 30 May 2019 from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG), H.E Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynar, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic, circulating the zero-draft resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

The Co-Chairs are presenting the zero-draft on Monday, 3 June 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2.

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


María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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



New York, 30 May 2019

Excellency,

We are writing you in our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (AHWG).

Please find attached the zero draft resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, which is to be adopted as part of the report of the AHWG during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

We will present the zero draft on **Monday, 3 June 2019 at 3.00 p.m. in CR2** and invite Member States to provide general views. Please kindly note the meeting will be held in English and interpretation will not be provided.

The first reading of the draft will take place on **Monday, 10 June 2019 at 10.00 a.m. in CR6**.

We are looking forward to your active participation in the process.

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

Michal Mlynár
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Slovakia to the UN

Sima Sami I. Bahous
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Jordan to the UN

Attn: To all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York

Enclosure

ANNEX 1

OATH OF OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Current text of the Oath of Office of the Secretary-General:

“I, (name), solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Secretary-General of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other authority external to the Organization.”

Proposal of the Co-chairs of the AHWG:

“I, (name), solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Secretary-General of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, without seeking or accepting any instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other authority external to the Organization.”

Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

PP1 *Bearing in mind* the role and authority of the General Assembly as a principal organ of the United Nations and the importance of its effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its functions under the Charter of the United Nations;

PP2 *Reaffirming* its resolution 72/313 of 17 September 2018 and all other previous resolutions¹ relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly;

PP3 *Acknowledging* that all resolutions of the General Assembly relating to the revitalization of its work constitute an equally 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;

PP4 *Reiterating* that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

PP5 *Welcoming* the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to provide impetus to and promote the process of revitalization of the work of the Assembly during its seventy-third session in favour of a strengthened multilateral rules-based system;

PP6 *Also acknowledging* that the upcoming 75th anniversary of the United Nations represents an opportunity to further galvanize the Member States towards strengthening the multilateral system and the leadership role of the General Assembly on issues of global importance and relevance;

PP7 *Underlining* the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly to address the evolving global challenges and proliferation of new transnational threats;

OP1 *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;

OP2 *Invites* the Secretariat to continue updating regularly and equally the multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly in all six official languages and its substantive content in a cost-effective manner;

OP3 *Decides* to establish, at its seventy-fourth session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

¹ 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, 70/305, 71/323 and 72/313.

(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-fourth session;

OP4 *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-third session and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted at the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, including the separate indication of relevant provisions that were not implemented with reasons thereof;

OP5 *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, 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-fourth session;

Role and authority of the General Assembly

OP6 *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly and the strict respect of the Charter-based prerogatives and division of work among the United Nations' principal organs;

OP7 *Welcomes* the decision of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session to select "Making the United Nations relevant to all people: Global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies" as the theme of the general debate;

OP8 *Stresses* the importance of implementing the General Assembly resolutions on a non-selective basis, including those related to the revitalization of its work that require a follow up or further actions, as shown in the updated inventory of Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto;

OP9 *Takes note* with appreciation of the decision of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to request removal of item 16 of the agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly as a stand-alone item and invites other Member States, which had requested the inclusion of agenda items, along a similar line, to consider proposing voluntary removal of items or their biennialisation, triennialisation and clustering, in keeping with the ongoing efforts of the Assembly to streamline its agenda and enhance the efficiency of its work;

OP10 *Requests* the Secretariat to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly on past decisions regarding the streamlining of the agenda of the General Assembly with a view to address the issue of the increasingly overloaded agenda of the General Assembly;

OP11 *Welcomes* the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinforce synergy, coherence and complementarity between the agenda of the General Assembly, its Committees, Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and encourages regular

interaction between the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in this regard;

OP12 *Also welcomes* the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to convene informal meetings of the General Committee to discuss issues relating to rationalization of the work of the General Assembly and elimination of gaps and duplication in the agenda of the General Assembly, including as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls for continuation of such efforts;

OP13 *Underlines* the urgent need to preserve the primacy of the general debate of the General Assembly, and strongly urges the Member States and the United Nations system to singly and collectively limit the number of side events held in parallel with the general debate;

OP14 *Encourages* Member States to limit or refrain from mandating high-level events in the margins of the general debate;

OP15 *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 be mindful of the regular agenda of the General Assembly when organizing such debates;

OP16 *Request* the President of the General Assembly to re-consider timing of the plenary meetings of the General Assembly on the “Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization” and on the “Report of the Security Council”, so that discussions of these important reports are not conducted in a perfunctory manner;

OP17 *Reiterates* its decision to hold interactive and comprehensive dialogue between the Permanent Missions and the Secretariat as mandated in resolution 71/323 during the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and strongly emphasizes the importance to follow up on the issues raised during the dialogue aimed at improving the work of the Secretariat in its interaction with Permanent Missions;

OP18 *Takes note* of the proposals provided by the Secretariat for addressing the cost of use of the Delegates Dining Room and other venues at the United Nations by delegations, and decides to continue the consideration of this item during its seventy-fourth session;

OP19 *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to take necessary measures to stop offering single-use plastic food containers and disposable cutlery at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

OP20 *Notes* the progress aimed at increasing the visibility of the General Assembly in media and in bringing the Assembly’s priorities to a wider audience; and requests the United Nations Department of Global Communications to keep taking appropriate measures to further enhance public awareness of the role and activities of the General Assembly in as many languages and via as many platforms as possible to strengthen the link between the General Assembly, its President and the general public;

Working methods

OP21 *Reaffirms* existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees;

OP22 *Stresses* the desirability of the General Assembly to further streamline its agenda and dedicate more time for dialogue as well as the review of the implementation of the resolutions it adopts;

OP23 *Invites* the Chairs of Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group during the seventy-fourth session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view improving working methods, as appropriate and to coordinate their briefings regarding possible commonalities in the working methods and lessons learned prior to briefing the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly;

OP24 *Stresses* the need to bring the work of the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly in line with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and to transform it into a forum where Member States have meaningful, up-to-date and cross-regional discussions on how to best achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

Placeholder to include the outcome of the Alignment Process

OP25 *Welcomes* the increasing number of women candidates in subsidiary organs of the General Assembly in seeking to promote gender balance as stipulated in paragraph 44 of resolution 71/323 and paragraph 32 of resolution 72/313 and encourages Member States to continue to do so;

OP26 *Welcomes* the progress made on the digitalization of the Journal of the United Nations, including the implementation of the possibility to publish the announcements of the Member States' side events under a dedicated section, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts aimed at increasing the speed with which the Journal loads on electronic devices;

OP27 *Requests* the Secretariat of the United Nations to further improve, harmonize and unify e-services provided by Member States under eDelegate that will ultimately allow creating a full-fledged delegates' workplace in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents;

OP28 *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Opening of the regular sessions of the General Assembly", issued as document A/73/723 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/313 and decides as the initial step that the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly will open on the Tuesday of the second week in September to allow more time for the incoming President of the General Assembly and her/his Office to prepare for the "High Level Week", while retaining the current timing of the general debate;

OP29 *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly a follow-up report to A/73/723 on estimates of expenditure foreseen in respect of the remaining two options of potentially bringing forward the date of the start of future General Assembly;

Placeholder for the guidelines on the election campaigns

OP30 *Encourages* the Secretariat of the United Nations to explore appropriate and timely application of electronic technology in elections held in General Assembly, including in

casting and counting votes; and requests the Secretariat to provide the Ad Hoc Working Group with an analysis of the current electoral practices during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly;

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

OP31 *Reaffirms* the important role played by the United Nations Secretary-General in the context of the current global challenges, and in the implementation of the pillars of the United Nations, namely Peace and Security, Human Rights and Sustainable Development;

OP32 *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 of 10 September 2014, 69/321, 70/305, 71/323 and 72/313, 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;

OP33 *Welcomes* the progress achieved in the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General in the consensual resolutions 69/321, 70/305, 71/323 and 72/313, in full compliance with the General Assembly mandate under Article 97 of the UN Charter;

OP34 *Decides* to further assess during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General, consolidate the advances gained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions and explore possible steps to further improve the process, including how the new process applies to an incumbent Secretary-General seeking re-election;

OP35 *Recognizes* in this respect the possibility to continue to improve the existing procedures of the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, including by setting a deadline for nominating candidates; proposing multiple candidates by the Security Council to the General Assembly; strengthening the communication between the Security Council and General Assembly during the selection process of the Secretary General; and the duration of appointment and renewability of the term of Office of the Secretary-General;

OP36 *Decides* that the Secretary-General designate appointed by the General Assembly shall take an oath of office before the Assembly during a swearing-in ceremony, as detailed in Annex I to the present resolution;

OP37 *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure 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 as stipulated in resolutions 51/241, 69/321, 70/305, 71/323 and 72/313;

OP38 *Supports* the request from the Secretary-General for Member States to submit names and résumés of nationals that may be considered for positions of Executive Heads and Senior Management of the United Nations Secretariat;

OP39 *Welcomes* that gender parity has already been reached in the Senior Management Group and commends the Secretary-General's commitment to reach gender parity across the United Nations Organization well before 2030;

OP40 *Recalls* the Article 101 of the United Nations Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly that emphasize the paramount importance of the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity in recruitment of international civil servants;

OP41 *Calls on* the Joint Inspection Unit to include in its work programme the preparation of analysis and recommendations on the selection and appointment of executive heads and senior managers in the United Nations system;

OP42 *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;

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

OP43 *Emphasizes* the position of the President of the General Assembly within the United Nations Organization, and his/her role in the overall success of the work of the General Assembly;

OP44 *Invites* Member States to equally consider women as candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, and encourages President-elect to continue to strive for both gender and geographic balance within the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

OP45 *Commends* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session for her commitment to the highest standards of transparency and accountability, and requests future Presidents of the Assembly to follow the established practices;

OP46 *Notes with appreciation* the decision of Member States to fund the transition period, the Trust Fund of the President of the General Assembly, seconding national staff as well as convening of annual retreats;

OP47 *Welcomes* the induction programme delivered to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and calls on the Secretariat to strengthen the programme through enhanced content and increased delivery time;

OP48 *Takes note with concern* of the heavy reliance of the Office of the President of the General Assembly on the voluntary contributions to deliver on a growing number of mandates entrusted to it by the General Assembly;

OP49 *Request* the Secretary-General to continue to provide to the President of the General Assembly adequate administrative, technical, logistical and protocol-related support necessary to effectively execute his/her mandates as president of a principal organ of the United Nations;

OP50 *Requests* the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters to consider during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly further action to strengthen the Office of the President of the General Assembly in terms of adequate and reliable human and financial resources allocated to the Office;

OP51 *Recommends* that the President of the General Assembly be granted the flexibility to manage the five unencumbered posts currently assigned to the Office of the President without the limitation of the fixed post grades or number, taking into account the approved programme budget;

OP52 *Requests* the Secretary-General to take necessary measures to preserve and further strengthen the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including through utilizing existing United Nations record keeping and archiving facilities;

OP53 *Also requests* the Secretariat to issue, in coordination with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, a compendium of best practices of past Presidents, that could serve to contribute to strengthening the institutional memory of the Office;

OP54 *Emphasizes* the importance of a handover report for the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/321 and other relevant mandates contained in resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly;

OP55 *Calls on* the President of the General Assembly to organize the informal interactive dialogue of the Member States with the candidate(s) for the position of the President of the General Assembly pursuant to resolution 71/323 as a Q&A session with targeted and relevant questions, that serves as a follow-up to the vision statement of the candidate(s) and draws on the plans and priorities of each candidate for his or her term;

OP56 *Encourages* the Office of the President of the General Assembly to expedite posting of the President's speeches, letters, travels, activities, decisions and documents related to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly on the relevant websites of the United Nations;