



**Permanent Mission of Australia
to the United Nations**
New York



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

25 January 2022

Excellency,

We wish to refer to the letter from the President of the General Assembly, dated 15 October 2021, appointing us as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (AHWG) during the seventy-sixth session.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for appointing us to lead, in partnership with Member States, efforts to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly this session.

The General Assembly remains the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the world's premier multilateral forum. As the President of the General Assembly has observed, a stronger United Nations requires a stronger General Assembly. It is therefore incumbent on this Assembly to regularly examine itself, including its role and working methods, to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and capable of responding effectively, thoughtfully, and meaningfully to the most urgent global challenges. As Co-Chairs, we commit to working collaboratively and inclusively with all UN Member States to advance the revitalization agenda with these goals in mind.

In resolution 75/325 of 10 September 2021, the Assembly decided that the revitalization resolution would next be considered during its seventy-seventh session and biennially thereafter, and to make the implementation of resolution 75/325 the primary focus of the seventy-sixth session. Furthermore, Member States designated two of the four pillars of revitalization the primary focus for the seventy-sixth session: role and authority of the General Assembly; and working methods.

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It is therefore our intention to deliver a session of the AHWG that builds on the achievements of the seventy-fifth session; progresses in the implementation of the measures contained in resolution 75/325, as well as previous resolutions; and is clearly and purposefully focused on the two agreed pillars (outlined above). Hence, we would like to draw your attention to the following proposed roadmap:

General Debate

In our capacity as Co-Chairs, we would like to invite you to the **General Debate of the AHWG to be held in-person in the General Assembly Hall at 10.00am on Wednesday, 9 March 2022** (if necessary, the general debate will continue in the afternoon of the same day and will follow the existing guidelines to reduce the risk posed by the COVID-19 pandemic).

The aim of the General Debate is to discuss how we can best work together to implement agreed revitalization mandates and shape a session of the AHWG that takes full advantage of the new biennial format.

Some of the key areas where we believe we could best focus our efforts include:

- Creative, innovative and concrete ways to ensure the implementation of existing revitalization mandates
- Improving the priority setting process in the General Assembly agenda: increasing focus on pressing issues and existing mandates
- Enhancing the relationship and coordination between the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and the Security Council
- Training for delegates in the drafting and negotiation of action-oriented outcomes
- Mainstreaming of gender equality in General Assembly meetings, resolutions, and outcomes

We also encourage delegations to use the General Debate to outline which questions and topics they would like to see addressed in each of the mandated briefings and informal dialogues scheduled for this 76th session (refer to programme of work below).

Programme of work

Looking ahead, we would also like to present for your consideration the following **tentative programme of work** for the AHWG during the seventy-sixth session (based on A/RES/75/325).

1. **Wednesday, 9 March 2022: General Debate of the Ad Hoc Working Group**
2. **Thursday, 7 April 2022: Thematic Debate on the Role and Authority of the General Assembly**, including but not limited to:
 - Briefing by the Department of Global Communication on ‘measures to further enhance public awareness of the role and activities of the Assembly, including on as many platforms as possible’
 - Focused discussion ‘on efforts to limit the number of side events held in parallel with or in the margins of the general debate and other high-level sessions’
3. **Wednesday, 11 May 2022: Thematic Debate on Working Methods**, including but not limited to:
 - Briefing by the Chairs of the Main Committees on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods
4. **Tuesday, 14 June 2022: Informal Dialogue between Permanent Missions and the United Nations Secretariat**, including but not limited to:
 - Informal briefing by the United Nations Secretariat on ‘lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic’ and on the progress made to improve the accessibility of the UNHQ premises for persons with disabilities

To ensure each of the Thematic Debates is focused and targeted, we intend to circulate a concept note ahead of each Thematic Debate providing possible questions, topics and issues for discussion.

The lists of speakers for the General Debate and the two thematic debates of the AHWG are open. For inscribing on the list of speakers, please contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch (email: galindo@un.org with copy to gaspeakerslist@un.org). The time limit for statements will be *five minutes* for individual delegations and *seven minutes* for statements delivered on behalf of groups of States.

In addition to the formal programme of work, it is our intention to hold a number of informal discussions and events focused primarily on the two pillars to be addressed during the seventy-sixth session. These informal meetings will provide the opportunity for open discussion and exchange of ideas aimed at developing practical proposals for the effective implementation of revitalization mandates.

Excellency,

As Co-Chairs, we strongly believe that our collective endeavours, aimed at further enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Assembly, are relevant for the work of the United Nations as well as for the overall state of multilateralism. Therefore, we stand ready to work collaboratively and inclusively with all Member States throughout this AHWG session. We are available for informal consultations and are open to any ideas or proposals, including those which may help shape this new biennial format of the AHWG.

We look forward to your active and constructive participation.

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



Mitch Fifield

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Australia
to the United Nations



Egriselda López

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of El Salvador
to the United Nations