



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

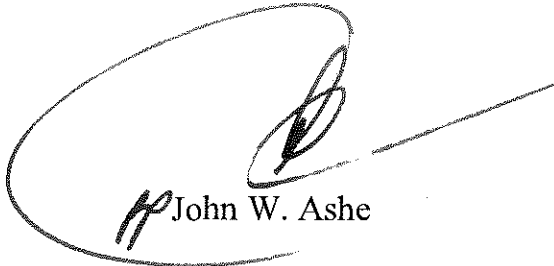
1 April 2014

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. František Ružička, Permanent Representative of Slovakia and H.E. Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni, Permanent Representative of Thailand, Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, including some of the matters to be addressed during the second thematic meeting of the Group, on 4 April 2014.

As already stated in the letter, the points listed in the affixed document aim at ensuring that the meeting develops in a purposeful and result-oriented manner, without prejudice to the sovereign right of the Members States to bring up other issues they consider important to be discussed during the meeting.

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



John W. Ashe

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



Permanent Mission of Slovakia
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations

31 March 2014

Excellency,

As a follow-up to our letter dated 10 March 2014 concerning the tentative program of work for the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG) during the 68th session, we now have the honour to write you in advance of the second thematic meeting of the Group, on 4 April 2014, which will focus on working methods. As mentioned in our letter referred to above, we have extended invitations to the Chairs of the Main Committees to participate in this meeting and brief the Group in accordance with OP 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/297. Member States will have an opportunity to engage in Q&A with the Main Committee Chairs, as well as to make general statements.

With a view to helping ensure that the meeting develops in a purposeful and result-oriented manner, and without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to raise any matters they wish to discuss during the meeting, we would like to suggest that consideration be given to the following approach to dealing with elements of General Assembly resolution 67/297 concerning working methods. This approach, we believe, could help stimulate the debate and place ourselves on the road toward making tangible progress during the 68th session.

In OP 15 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its request to continue consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly. What, in your view, could be a way forward to begin this process called for and to achieve concrete outcomes during the present or future sessions? Any concrete proposals by Member States regarding specific items sponsored by them, for example, would be very welcome.

According to the current practice, non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of the ECOSOC are elected in October. In OP 17 of General Assembly resolution 67/297, the Assembly called for consideration to be given to electing these members earlier than October each year. Does your delegation view favourably the idea of electing these members earlier than October, so as to provide them with more time to prepare for discharging their new responsibilities? If so, what are the options where an earlier date is concerned, and which of these appears to be the most attractive?

Similarly, OP18 of the resolution invited inter alia the President of the General Assembly to enhance the coordination of high level meetings and thematic debates so as to optimize their number and distribution. In what specific ways do you believe that the Assembly could make the desired coordination more effective in order to achieve the advantages sought in OP 18?

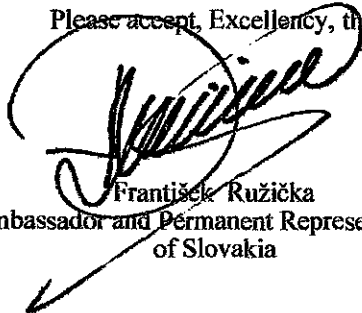
In OP 22 of resolution 67/297, the General Assembly requested the AHWG to prepare arrangements for the establishment of a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism for the election of Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly. In this regard we would like to recall decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013 by which the Assembly, on the proposal of the President of the 68th session, approved an interim arrangement up to and including the 73rd session. At the same time, we are also aware that there are other proposals from Member States presented during the previous session. We therefore believe that it would be most helpful if Member States were to express concrete views on the different choices available for moving forward where this matter is concerned.

One such option might be to adopt and annex to the resolution to be elaborated by this AHWG the rotation pattern agreed in decision 68/505 which would provide an already agreed framework for constituting the bureaux from the 69th to the 73rd sessions inclusive. This could be coupled with a renewed mandate to elaborate an appropriate arrangement for future elections after the 73rd session, which would give Member States more time for elaborating a longer-term scheme, which has already proven to be a challenging exercise. Another option might be to make a determined effort during this session to agree on a formula for the full period of twenty years which we all recognize to be desirable.

As mentioned in our previous letters, delegations are also invited to continue to review and comment on the draft updated inventory, that has now been posted on the new web link devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/>), and to base their comments under the various clusters on it.

We look forward to your active participation in this and the other forthcoming meetings of the AHWG which will assist us in the drafting of a resolution that we intend to circulate after the final thematic meeting.

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



František Ružička
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Slovakia



Norachit Sinhaseni
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Thailand

To: All Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, New York