



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 July, 2014

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a letter, dated 11 July 2014, signed by H.E. Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni, Permanent Representative of Thailand, and Mr. Igor Vencel, Charge d'Affaires a.i and Deputy Permanent Representative, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Frantisek Ruzicka, Permanent Representative of Slovakia, Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

By their letter, the Co-Chairs inform that after many rounds of informal consultations, which included intensive negotiations and direct exchanges among the major stakeholders who actively participated in the work of the AHWG, the Working Group has now reached a point where there is wide and general consensus on a text that is both strong and balanced, and that reaffirms existing positions while introducing a number of new and forward-looking elements.

Under cover of this letter, the Co-Chairs circulate their proposed consensus text, which they have placed under silent procedure until Wednesday, 16 July at 12 pm. Should the silence be unbroken, this draft resolution will be scheduled for adoption at the final meeting of the AHWG, which is scheduled for next Thursday, 17 July.

I once again thank the Co-Chairs for their tireless efforts and work in the implementation of their mandate and commend all delegations for the flexibility and the constructive spirit which they have displayed during the negotiations.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Ashe".

John W. Ashe

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

New York, 11 July 2014

Excellency,

Following the appointment of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, we have convened a general debate and four thematic meetings during the period 4 March to 16 May. As a result of these proceedings, and the views expressed by the membership thereat, we circulated a draft resolution to all Member States. On the basis of this proposal, we then conducted a series of informal consultations, with the active participation of a variety of political groupings and major stakeholders.

After many rounds of informals, which included intensive negotiations and direct exchanges among the major stakeholders who actively participated in the work of the AHWG, we believe that, after several weeks of deliberations, we have now come to a point where we have reached wide and general consensus on a text that is both strong and balanced, and that reaffirms existing positions while introducing a number of new and forward-looking elements.

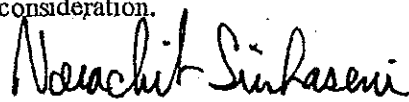
Following our last informal meeting, on Wednesday, 2 July, and further constructive subsequent discussions among the negotiating partners, including with the active support of your Office, we have circulated what we believe can be a consensual text.

We would therefore be grateful if the draft resolution, which we have decided to place under silent procedure until Wednesday, 16 July at 12 p.m., could be circulated to all Member States.

At this stage, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all delegations who have actively participated in the negotiation of this draft resolution. We intend to formally adopt the draft resolution at the final meeting of the AHWG which is scheduled for next Thursday, 17 July, in the afternoon.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of our highest consideration.

  
Igor Vencel  
Chargé d' Affaires a.i

  
Norachit Sinhaseni  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Thailand

H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe  
President of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly  
United Nations  
New York

**68/....Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

(PP1) *Reaffirming* its resolution 67/297 of 29 August 2013 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly<sup>1</sup>,

(PP2) *Underlining* the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

(PP3) *Reiterating* that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

(PP4) *Reaffirming* the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making 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,

(PP5) *Reaffirming* the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, including in global governance, as set out in the Charter,

(PP6) *Welcoming* the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly during its 68<sup>th</sup> 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 General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto;

2. *Welcomes* the establishment of a multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the GA, accessible directly from the United Nations Website, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating this webpage and its substantive content;

3. *Decides* to establish, at its sixty-ninth 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 sixty-ninth session;

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<sup>1</sup> 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 and 66/294

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 sixty-eighth session, and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>2</sup>, and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the 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 sixty-ninth 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;

7. *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;

8. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and in full respect of 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 of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General;

9. *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 exploration of appropriate actions or measures, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly, in conformity with its relevant rules of procedure;

10. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and encourages the President of the General Assembly to continue this practice in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States on the preliminary programme in order to enable adequate level of participation and appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion to facilitate, where appropriate results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates and, in this context, *welcomes* the initiative of the President of the General Assembly at the sixty-eighth session to

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<sup>2</sup> A/68/774

select "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!" as the theme of the general debate;

11. *Welcomes* the improvement in the quality of the annual reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly, and encourages the Council to make further improvement as necessary;

12. *Invites* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the General Assembly, and to enhance, in the light of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, world public and media awareness of the contribution of the General Assembly to the fulfillment of the goals of the Organization, as set out in the Charter;

### **Working methods**

13. *Appreciates* the briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group about the working methods of the their respective Committees during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, and in this regard encourages the Main Committees:

(a) To ensure adequate coordination in their work while avoiding overlap and duplication;

(b) To elect the bureau of each committee at least three months in advance of the session for better coordination and for smoother hand-over of their work;

(c) To benefit from their respective intranet and other online services to facilitate the smooth organization and timely conclusion of their work;

(d) To share experiences, best practices and lessons learned concerning their respective working methods;

(e) To further enhance sharing of information on the work and activities of the Main Committees within each Main Committee;

14. *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 at the sixty-ninth session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving such working methods as appropriate;

15. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the role of the General Committee to support the work of the General Assembly;

16. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at this sixty-ninth session, in consultation with Member States, continue consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

17. *Decides* to conduct elections of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the Economic and Social Council around six months before the elected members assume such responsibilities, beginning with the seventieth session;

18. *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 high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates with a view to optimizing the number, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session;

19. *Reaffirms* resolution 57/301 of 13 March 2003, by which the Assembly inter alia decided that the general debate shall be held without interruption, and *encourages* scheduling 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 Assembly;

20. *Encourages* Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs and to reduce environmental impact and to improve distribution of documents;

21. *Decides* to reiterate the interim arrangement adopted in GA Decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013, recommending the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming five sessions: sixty-ninth to seventy-third sessions, as well as the guidelines on election of Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees as contained in the Annex attached to this present resolution;

22. *Requests* in this regard the Ad Hoc Working Group to prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and to submit them to the Assembly not later than the 72<sup>nd</sup> session and, in this regard, invites Member States to present proposals and begin giving early attention to conclude a future arrangement which would come into effect as of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly with the Annex to the present Resolution containing an option to be considered in this context;

23. *Encourages* Member States to seek for gender balance in the distribution of Chairs of the Main Committees as well as for the position of the President of the General Assembly;

24. *Underlines* the need to fully implement and observe Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, which provides that, during the sessions of the General Assembly, the Journal of the United Nations shall be published in the languages of the Assembly, from within existing resources;

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

25. *Reaffirms* its commitment to continue, in the Ad Hoc working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its consideration of the revitalization

of the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, and calls for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (1) of 24 January 1946, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 60/286 of 8 September 2006, in particular paragraph 17 to 22 of the annex thereto, and 64/301 of 13 September 2010, keeping in mind the applicable procedures in the rules of procedure, including rule 141 while acknowledging existing relevant General Assembly practices;

26. *Reiterates* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to other executive heads in the organizations of the United Nations system, given the roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly in accordance with the Article 97 of the Charter, and re-emphasizes the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be transparent and inclusive of all Member States;

27. *Notes* that the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General is expected to take place in 2016 and as a result, encourages, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the President of the General Assembly to actively support this process in accordance with the role accorded to him or her by relevant resolutions<sup>3</sup>;

28. Stresses the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender and geographical balance, while meeting the highest possible requirements on the appointment of executive heads of the Organization;

29. *Takes* note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the organizations of the United Nations system, proposing that the General Assembly conduct hearings or meetings with candidates running for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations<sup>4</sup>;

### **Strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly**

30. Takes note with appreciation of the views expressed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the Assembly and its relationship with the Secretariat<sup>5</sup>, and measures already undertaken in this regard, while continuing to explore additional measures where feasible, also taking note of the support provided by the General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division of DGACM to the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

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

32. Commends the initiative for the convening of a retreat on the strengthening of the General Assembly, which brings together the incoming and outgoing presidencies of each session of the General Assembly, and in this regard takes note of the summary contained in document A/68/669;

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<sup>3</sup> Resolutions 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 60/286 of 8 September 2006 and 64/301 of 13 September 2010

<sup>4</sup> See A/65/71

<sup>5</sup> Insert Document Symbol of AHWG Report

33. *Encourages* exchanges of the President-elect of the General Assembly with the Council of Presidents, in order to benefit from the experiences of former Presidents in terms of best practices and lessons learned, as part of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

34. *Encourages* Presidents elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

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

36. *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 for coordinating the transition between Presidents, managing interactions between the President and the Secretary-General and the preservation of institutional memory;

37. *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 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 General Assembly;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, proposals to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures;

39. *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 contributions that have been made to the Fund and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the Fund;

40. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the role, mandate and activities of the President;



**Annex**

**Guidelines on Election of Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the United Nations General Assembly**

1. The allocation of chairmanships of the Main Committees for the next session of the General Assembly in case there is an intention to switch or waive chairmanship shall be determined by the regional groups involved with facilitation and coordination by the President of the General Assembly as soon as possible before the opening of the next session of the General Assembly;
2. Member States and Regional Groups might wish to consider the following pattern of regional rotation of chairmanships for the Main Committees starting as of 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA;
- 3.

	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>74</b>	GRULAC	AP	Africa	WEOG	AP	EEG	AP2
<b>75</b>	WEOG	Africa	AP	EEG	Africa	GRULAC	Africa2
<b>76</b>	Africa	GRULAC	WEOG	AP	EEG	AP	AP2
<b>77</b>	AP	Africa	EEG	GRULAC	WEOG	Africa	Africa2
<b>78</b>	EEG	AP	GRULAC	WEOG	Africa	GRULAC	GRULAC2
<b>79</b>	Africa	EEG	AP	Africa	GRULAC	WEOG	Africa2
	Africa2	AP2 Africa2	AP2	WEOG2	Africa2	GRULAC2	

4. The decision on switching or waiving the chairmanship of a Main Committee shall be taken by the regional groups involved in coordination with the President of the General Assembly. Such decision shall not affect the general pattern of allocation of chairmanships of the Main Committees among the regional groups for consecutive sessions.
5. A Rapporteur of a Main Committee should be elected from the regional group that held the chairmanship of the Committee at the previous session.