



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 July 2016

Excellency,

Please find attached, for your kind attention, a letter dated 18 July, 2016, from the European Union and its Member States on the subject of “Principles of engagement by the European Union and its Member States in the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly”.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Head of Delegation

New York, 18 July 2016

Subject: Principles of engagement by the European Union and its Member States in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly

Excellency,

I would be most grateful if my enclosed letter to you of 11 July 2016 on the above-referenced matter could be circulated to all UN Member States and Observers.

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

Yours sincerely,

João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador

To:

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Encl.: Letter of 11 July 2016 regarding Principles of engagement by the European Union and its Member States in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Head of Delegation

Ref. Ares(2016)3584512 - 18/07/2016

New York, 11 July 2016

Subject: Principles of engagement by the European Union and its Member States in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly

Excellency,

Following the adoption in 2015 of a number of very important agreements, the UN membership must now focus on commitment delivery. The Second Committee has a central role to play, and the EU and its Member States attach great value and importance to the work it does. We remain keen to engage in good faith and with an open mind to revitalise the Second Committee, to firmly establish it as a credible forum in the context of the 2030 agenda.

With that in mind, during the 71st Session of the General Assembly and until a consensual solution is found on the agenda and working methods of the Second Committee, the EU and its Member States will:

1. General and specific debates

- Limit ourselves to deliver statements only in the general debate of the Second Committee and in two wide thematic debates, to ensure more time is effectively dedicated to the negotiations or preparation of the negotiations, and abstain from intervening in Agenda item debates. We also ask the Second Committee Bureau to seek to streamline and rationalize the Agenda item debates, to further free up valuable negotiating time.

2. Alignment of the Second Committee agenda with the AAAA and Agenda 2030

- Seek support for a modernisation of the Second Committee agenda focused on the implementation of the AAAA and Agenda 2030, avoiding to engage in negotiations that duplicate other UN fora and within the Second Committee itself. To support this process we are ready to co-draft and co-facilitate resolutions in line with the agendas above. We favour early and serious consultations on a given resolution with the view to favour a climate conducive to co-drafting in the nearest possible future and we stand ready to consider co-sponsorship of resolutions that will be co-drafted.

- Reserve our position on other resolutions while reaffirming our full support for the right of each member to present a resolution for consideration to the General Assembly.

3. Respect of deadlines

- Request the respect of the deadlines set by the Bureau for the negotiation of resolutions, in order to ensure full and informed participation by all Member States and adequate space for regional and national consultations. Should a late submission of a draft allow insufficient time to consult and negotiate to consensus a strong, meaningful resolution, we will not continue its consideration this session and ask that it be referred to the next session. We could derogate from these principles only if a specific resolution affects strategic or national interests of the EU and its Member States and decide case-by-case the terms of our engagement. In addition, for the sake of efficiency, the EU will insist that consultations on resolutions start on time.
- In principle, we will not be in a position to join consensus nor support a resolution presented after the deadline.

4. Definition of the financial implications

- Seek the Bureau's support in ensuring the full and as early as possible respect for Article 153 of the Rules of Procedure, stating that: "No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General."

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

Yours sincerely,



João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador

To:

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Copy to:

H.E. Mr. Andrej Logar, Chair of the Second Committee

H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President-elect of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani, Chair-elect of the Second Committee at the 71st session of UNGA