

**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY**

**Introducing the Report of the Committee  
on Relations with the Host Country in the Sixth Committee**

**16 November 2015**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

It is an honour for me to serve as Chairman of the Host Country Committee and to address the Sixth Committee in that capacity for the purpose of introducing this year's Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, contained in document A/70/26. The report was prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/128 of 18 December 2014.

The Report follows the structure of previous years and is divided into four chapters:

Chapter 1 contains a brief introduction.

Chapter 2 elaborates on the membership, composition, terms of reference and organization of the work of the Committee.

Chapter 3 summarizes the discussion on the topics dealt with by the Committee and is itself divided into three sections, namely:

Section A - Entry visas issued by the host country

Section B - Host Country activities; activities to assist members of the United Nations community

Section C - Other matters

Finally, Chapter 4 of the Report contains the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee, approved by its members at the Committee's.

Additionally the Report contains two Annexes, the first of which contains the list of topics under consideration by the Committee, as adopted in 1982 and slightly modified in 1994. The second annex contains a list of the documents addressed to the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country continues to provide an open environment where members and interested delegations, participating as observers to the work of the Committee, can follow its work and raise any concerns on issues relating to its agenda. During the reporting period, the Committee continued to provide a forum where discussions took place in a constructive manner and within the framework of the relevant international law, including the Headquarters Agreement between the United Nations and the Host Country.

During the reporting period issues relating to the issuance of entry visas and the timeliness of issuance of entry visas, to representatives of Member States have been raised. The Committee anticipates that such issues shall be duly addressed in accordance with the applicable international law and in a spirit of cooperation.

The report has moreover welcomed the significant efforts of the host country to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for permanent missions with other financial institutions. Suitable banking services are crucial to the ability of missions to perform their functions and in light of the fact that all missions maintain bank accounts; the host country is encouraged to sustain its efforts.

I would also like to note that Section F of Chapter 1 of the Report reflects the outcome of the informal consultations held during the reporting period, in line with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 69/128 which requested the Committee to consider additional appropriate measures to enhance its work and effectiveness. The Committee is fully aware of the need to maintain flexibility in holding its meetings, especially given its mandate and the nature of its work. Such flexibility should be properly balanced against the need to ensure that the documents and reports of the Committee are issued in a timely manner. It is my intention as Chair, to continue to work with a view to maintain that balance, as well as to continue considering *any* appropriate measures that would enhance the work and effectiveness of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Members of the Committee, to the Host Country section of the United States Mission to the United Nations, to the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, to all observer delegations who participated in the meetings, to the Secretary of the Committee and finally to the Secretariat for their guidance, support and cooperation throughout the reporting period.

Lastly, it would be an omission not to congratulate especially the Host Country and the City of New York, for coping very successfully with the reporting period's extended High Level segment which entailed the convening of both UNGA and the Sustainable Development Summit, both with unparalleled level of High Level participation.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.