

**Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country**  
**(Agenda item 165)**  
**Introduction of draft resolution A/C.6/74/L.19**  
**by Mr. Haris Chrysostomou (Republic of Cyprus)**  
**Sixth Committee, 20 November 2019**

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honor to introduce draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/74/L.19, entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country". In the process of preparing the draft resolution, the content of this year's Report of the Committee (A/74/26), as well as the views of the Member States, have been taken into account.

On 1 November 2019, the draft resolution was circulated to delegates for their consideration, ahead of informal consultations. Following informal consultations held on 7 and 8 November 2019, agreement *ad referendum* was reached on the draft text, which was circulated on the same day under silence procedure until 11 November, at 12.30 pm. Following the lapse of the silence procedure, the agreed text was submitted for processing on 11 November 2019. The text of the draft resolution is co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire and Cyprus.

There are several additions and changes to the text of the resolution compared to last year's text that overall reflect the recommendations and conclusions as contained in paragraph 165 of the Report of the Host Country Committee (A/74/26).

Allow me to focus my remarks on new and amended parts of the text.

- **Preambular Paragraphs 5 and 6**, are new. They refer, respectively, to the primary purpose of the Headquarters Agreement, and the Convention on Privileges and Immunities, which does not distinguish between permanent and visiting representatives of the Member States.
- **Operative Paragraph 2**. The amendments reflect increasing concerns raised by permanent missions regarding the normal performance of their functions and the readiness of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country to effectively address them, as well as the expectation that all issues raised will be duly settled expeditiously, in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;
- **Operative Paragraph 3** refers to the applicability of privileges and immunities to premises. In this paragraph, the additional language highlights the repeated concerns regarding alleged ongoing violations and restrictions applied to the premises of a Permanent Mission;

- **Operative Paragraph 6** refers to travel restrictions imposed by the host country and includes new language referring to the recurring nature of the request for their removal, the seriousness with which recent concerns are evaluated as regards the more stringent travel restrictions imposed on the permanent and visiting representatives of two Missions and the statements of affected delegations that travel restrictions impede their ability to carry out their functions, restrict their access to services and their choice of residence, and negatively impact their families. The statement of the Legal Counsel on this matter, as reflected in document A/AC.154/415, is also noted.
- **Operative Paragraphs 7 - 10** concern the issuance of entry visas. These paragraphs contain new language regarding, inter alia, the increasing number of entry visa-related issues raised at the meetings of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the statement of the UN Legal Counsel at the emergency, 295th, meeting of the Committee on relations with the Host Country, and the expectation for the prompt issuance by the host country of entry visas to all representatives of Member States and members of the Secretariat. They also call upon the host country to review its differing processes of granting visas to the personnel of certain missions, with particular attention to single-entry visas.
- In **Operative Paragraph 15**, the new text requests the more active engagement of the Secretary-General in the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The statement of the Legal Counsel at the emergency, 295th, meeting of the Committee, as set out in document A/AC.154/415 is also noted, while the General Assembly considers that if the issues raised in the Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country are not resolved within a reasonable and finite period of time, serious consideration will be given to taking steps under section 21 of the Headquarters Agreement.
- **Operative Paragraph 16 contains a** request to the Committee of Relations with the Host Country to make recommendations, regarding additional appropriate measures that would enhance its work and effectiveness, in its report to the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairperson,

This concludes my introduction of draft resolution A/C.6/74/L.19. I would like to thank all delegates for their constructiveness and flexibility that allowed us to make significant progress despite the challenges at hand. I wish to also express my gratitude to the Secretariat for its professionalism and invaluable support. In view of the above, I recommend to the Sixth Committee the adoption of this resolution without a vote.

I thank you for your attention.