

**Sixth Committee, 76th Session of the UNGA - Report of the Committee on  
Relations with the Host Country [item 167], 9 November 2021  
HCC Chairman's Statement**

Madame Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure to address today the Sixth Committee in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in order to introduce this year's Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in document A/76/26, Supplement No. 26.

The Report was prepared in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 75/146 of 15 December 2020 and follows the structure of previous years. It 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 during the reporting period.
- Finally, Chapter 4 contains the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee.

The report also has two annexes containing a list of topics for consideration by the Committee, as adopted in 1982 and modified in 1994, and a list of documents issued as documents of the Committee during the reporting period.

Madame Chairperson,

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country is an important forum in which representatives of Member States seek to resolve different problems arising in connection with the implementation of the 1947 Headquarters Agreement, through a frank and constructive exchange of views and cooperation of all concerned. It remains an open, transparent, and flexible body where any interested delegation can participate in it as an observer. Moreover, the Committee is the only body in the UN system which is mandated

to consider matters in relation to the host country and then report thereon to the General Assembly and make recommendations.

During the reporting period, issues important to the UN Membership were raised regarding the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement between the United Nations and the United States. Issues concerning entry visas and travel restrictions were of particular concern.

The Committee will continue its efforts in addressing all issues that are on its agenda in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law.

Madame Chairperson,

In the Report and the Recommendations and Conclusions therein, we have tried to fully reflect our discussions throughout the year, while noting that numerous issues raised in the report remain unresolved. Hence, there is new language, *inter alia*, on issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States and members of the Secretariat, on travel regulations issued by the host country, as well as on the role of the Secretary-General in the work of the Committee, in line with General Assembly resolution 2819 of 1971, and the ongoing discussions between the Legal Counsel and the competent authorities of the host country regarding unresolved issues and with respect to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement.

Madame Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Since I started my term as Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country earlier this year, we have witnessed intense discussions on several items of great importance to the members of the Committee, and the UN as a whole, related to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement and in particular concerning entry visas and travel regulations. The Committee has been working in the light of the recommendations and conclusions that the Committee adopted last year, which were endorsed by the General Assembly, in particular that, "if the issues raised in the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country are not resolved in a reasonable and finite period of time, serious consideration will be given to taking steps under section 21 of the Headquarters Agreement". I believe that the recommendations and conclusions of this year's Report on which the members have reached consensus through intense but constructive negotiations, give due emphasis to this position. In that regard, I would like to thank the Secretary-General and the Legal Counsel for their active involvement in our Committee's discussions and for their continuous efforts at various levels in addressing

important outstanding issues. Allow me to note that what is important is that the relevant parties are engaged in a process that they consider to be constructive, can yield results and should continue, as more work remains to be done. The Legal Counsel has informed the Committee that this remains the best avenue for finding acceptable solutions.

In line with these Recommendations and Conclusions, I wish to reassure you of my personal commitment to help address all outstanding issues, in a spirit of compromise and in full regard for the interests of the Organization. I intend to continue to engage with the representatives of the host country, affected Member States and with the Secretary General and the Legal Counsel to find solutions to resolve all outstanding issues in line with the Headquarters Agreement.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Committee, the Host Country section of the United States Mission to the United Nations, the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, and all observer delegations who participated in the meetings of the Committee during this reporting period, for their support and excellent cooperation. Let me also take this opportunity to express my particular appreciation to the representatives of the host country and the concerned Member States for their constructive approach.

Finally, I wish to express my deep and sincere appreciation to the Secretary of the Committee and to the UN Secretariat for their continuous guidance and support throughout the year.

I thank you Madame Chairperson.