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The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**United Nations General Assembly  
Sixth Committee (77<sup>th</sup> Session)**

**اللجنة السادسة للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة  
(الدورة ٧٧)**

**Statement on Agenda Item 124:**

**“Revitalization of the work of the  
General Assembly”**

**بيان حول البند ١٢٤:**

**“إعادة تنشيط عمل الجمعية العامة”**

**Ahmed Abdelaziz Elgharib**

**Legal Advisor**

**أحمد عبد العزيز الغريب**

**المستشار القانوني**

**10 November 2022**

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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you, the bureau, the Sixth Committee Secretariat and all colleagues, on the successful conclusion of the work of the Sixth Committee at its 77<sup>th</sup> session.

Mr. Chair,

This session has been my fourth session representing Egypt to the Sixth Committee, thus I might have a few observations to share on ways of how we could improve our working methods in the Sixth Committee for the sessions ahead.

**FIRST**: Consensus building is not an easy task. It is tiresome, but worth it. For our line of work at this committee, namely international law, it is of particular importance. That is why this committee has had general consensus during the last years, on maintaining the tradition of consensus. Nonetheless, this has not always been the case. According to a study prepared by one of our colleagues here, and he has the right to reveal himself should he chose, out of 1039 resolutions tabled in the Sixth Committee until the 76<sup>th</sup> Session, 228 resolutions were voted. But we have managed to maintain the consensus tradition since the 60<sup>th</sup> Session.

I take this opportunity to reiterate my delegation's conviction that consensus is still the good way to do things in the Sixth Committee. This applies specifically to topics involving of an *erga omnes* nature. Threatening the continuance of the consensus tradition in the Sixth Committee in the pursuit of "quick gains" is not prudent neither strategic. At the same time, preserving consensus does not mean maintaining the *status quo* on agenda

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items or refusing objective negotiations in good faith. This current session specifically has manifested that compromises and flexibility are indeed possible. Nonetheless, good faith should be maintained by all delegations. This for us means abandoning both “maximalist positions” and “rigid and non–flexible positions” alike.

For our part, Egypt is committed to continuing working with all delegations in the Sixth Committee with the view of conducting fruitful, result–oriented discussions, premised on consensus.

**SECOND**: Products of the International Law Commission remain of paramount value for the codification and the progressive development of international law. Improved communication between the Sixth Committee and the ILC is very important, to ensure that the views of Member States are represented in the work of the ILC. At the end of the day, it is Member States who craft international law, and who are subjects of international law.

This applies to all phases of the work of the ILC, starting from the selection of topics, through the choice of type of product, up until the adoption of such products. The ILC should also develop clear criteria to distinguish between the types of its products, and the exact legal consequences attached to each of them.

My delegation’s second point here is a point of consistency. The Sixth Committee has to address all ILC products in a consistent manner. Not all products have to develop necessarily into international conventions. But the “process” for handling all outputs and validating them, has to be consistent. It is difficult to explain granting a fast track for

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specific products which are important, while refusing merely further in–depth discussions on other equally important topics. Examples in this regard are abundant.

**THIRD**: We need to “revitalize” the work of the Working Groups, since we believe that their current *modus operandi* can benefit from a lot of improvement. It is no surprise that it is not an easy task to have the envisaged in–depth exchanges in Working Groups amidst the very heavy meeting schedules we have in October and November each year. It might be useful to consider holding the meetings of the working groups in resumed sessions of the Sixth Committee outside the peak meeting times. This, in our view, might allow for the space to conduct the necessary in–depth, action–oriented discussions.

Last but not least, a colleague from one delegation today asked me since I am inscribed to speak to propose the idea of opening the curtains in this beautiful Trusteeship Hall, which we have the privilege as Sixth Committee, of possessing. I cannot but agree with this very reasonable proposal, and submit it for the consideration of colleagues and the Secretariat.

**Finally**, since this is most likely to be the last time I will be addressing the Sixth Committee, I would like to express that I have been extremely privileged and honored to represent my country Egypt in this Committee, and to interact and cooperate with such unique cohort of distinguished lawyers. I take this opportunity to thank all representatives, current and former, for their invaluable cooperation and friendship. Last but not least, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the entire Secretariat team for their unequalled professionalism, and the assistance they have and continue to provide to all delegations.

I thank you Mr. Chair.