

Sixth Committee, 78th Session of the UNGA
Introduction of draft resolution A/C.6/78/L.11 on Host Country Committee
Theodoulos Pittakis (Cyprus)

Mr. Chair, dear colleagues,

I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution under agenda item 161, entitled “Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country”, as contained in document A/C.6/78/L.11, on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire and my own country Cyprus.

The draft resolution is based on resolution 77/114 adopted last year, with the necessary technical updates, and incorporates all new elements in the text of Chapter IV “Recommendations and Conclusions”, as contained in paragraph 146 of the Report of the Host Country Committee (A/78/26).

I’ll now address the following major changes which were made to the draft resolution.

In Operative Paragraph 2, the new language notes the serious concerns raised by a Member State expressing the inappropriate treatment and screening of certain of its high-ranking officials by the Host Country and requests the Host Country to carefully investigate these concerns and take the necessary preventive and remedial action, as appropriate.

In Operative Paragraph 6, the new text notes the easing in 2023 of travel restrictions on two Missions, while remaining concerned about the additional restrictions applied to one Mission in late 2022.

In Operative Paragraph 7, the new language notes a relative decrease in the percentage of visas not issued and in Operative Paragraph 8, the General Assembly expresses serious concern regarding multiple cases of denial and non-issuance of entry visas.

Operative Paragraph 10 has been amended so that the General Assembly, while acknowledging that action taken in 2023 led to a relative reduction in processing time for entry visas for certain Missions, remains seriously concerned that other Missions and Secretariat staff members of certain nationalities continue to be adversely impacted by processing times.

Finally, in Operative Paragraph 15, the new language notes the resourceful engagement of the Legal Counsel and the Secretary-General in discussions with the Host Country and *once again* reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to now give *the* most serious consideration and take any appropriate steps under section 21 of the Headquarters Agreement and *intensify* efforts to *expedite resolution* of the issues.

Mr. Chair,

After the informal consultation held on 6 November, I conclude that the text reflects a consensus among delegations. For this reason, I recommend that the Sixth Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Once again, I would like to thank all the delegations for their constructive engagement during the negotiations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.