

Sixth Committee, 79th Session of the UNGA

Agenda item 168

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.6/79/L.5 on Host Country Committee

Theodoulos Pittakis (Cyprus)

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished colleagues,

I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire and my own country, Cyprus, the draft resolution under agenda item 168, entitled "*Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country*", which is contained in document A/C.6/79/L.5.

The draft resolution is based on resolution 78/116 adopted last year, with the necessary technical adjustments, and incorporates all new elements of Chapter IV "*Recommendations and Conclusions*", as contained in paragraph 180 of the Report of the Host Country Committee (A/79/26).

I'll address the most significant changes which were made to the draft resolution:

In **Operative Paragraph 2**, the General Assembly requests the host country to *expeditiously* solve problems that might arise (in relation to the normal functioning of delegations and missions accredited to the United Nations and to the observance of their privileges and immunities). The General Assembly, also, urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action and *notes the actions that the host country consistently takes*.

Also, in OP2, the General Assembly notes the serious concerns raised by a Member State expressing the inappropriate treatment and screening of certain of its high-ranking officials *and its other representatives* by host country (Customs and Border Protection officers). The Committee requests the host country to carefully *address* these concerns and take the necessary preventive and remedial action as appropriate and to protect the premises of missions against any intrusion or damage (...) *and to prevent any affront to the dignity and honour of representatives of Member States;*

In **Operative Paragraph 8**, the General Assembly expresses *serious concern* regarding multiple cases of denial and non-issuance of entry visas, including in particular to delegates participating in high-level events, *including the non-issuance of a visa to a high-ranking official of a Member State for the general debate of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly*, in the work of the Main Committees at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly *and of a subsidiary body of the General Assembly*,

Mr. Chair,

After the informal consultation held on 4 November, I conclude that the text reflects a consensus among delegations. For this reason, I recommend that the Sixth Committee adopts the draft resolution without a vote.

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

Thank you for your attention.