

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTH COMMITTEE - 79th SESSION

**AGENDA ITEM No. 121: REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

New York, 2 October 2024

Chair,

On behalf of the delegations of Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa, and my own country, Colombia, it is my honor to address this agenda item.

At the outset, allow me to express our appreciation for your leadership, which, together with the efforts of the Bureau members, will contribute to a productive session of the Sixth Committee. We reiterate our full support to you and all Bureau members.

Reflecting on the statement we delivered during the 78th session, we wish to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to a continued discussion on the working methods of this Committee. We welcome the opportunity to have these discussions at the start of this session in a focused manner, with the participation of the whole membership.

We firmly believe that this body - the Sixth Committee - holds the main responsibility in the codification and progressive development of international law. It is essential for us, as Member States, to adopt an action-oriented approach to fulfill these important duties, while acknowledging the critical role played by the International Law Commission (ILC) as a subsidiary expert body in this regard.

Guided by this commitment, we would like to suggest the next concrete follow-up recommendations for this session:

1. Implementation of the General Assembly Mandate (Resolution 77/335, Paragraph 35):

The General Assembly has invited each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods under the agenda item on the revitalization of the General Assembly. Specifically, it encourages holding substantive and interactive

dialogues, and submitting written updates on progress in improving these methods during the 78th and 79th sessions.

To achieve this, and as it was expressed by our delegations during the previous 78th session, we now welcome the Bureau's designation of a focal point who will serve as the Bureau's contact point for receiving information, comments and suggestions from delegations regarding the working methods of the Committee and its programme of work.

We believe this could improve in implementing the mandate set out in resolution 77/335, and we encourage the incoming Bureaus to keep this practice, bearing in mind the need to ensure an equal geographical rotation of this role.

2. Strengthening the Relationship with the International Law Commission (ILC):

We emphasize the need for a more active and structured dialogue between the ILC and the Sixth Committee. This should be reflected in the Programme of Work, particularly during International Law Week, to ensure more room for in-depth and substantive discussions with ILC members.

This dialogue with ILC members should not only take the form of a briefing on the advancement of the topics, but rather it should also include an agenda that addresses:

- The need to improve the ILC's dialogue with the Sixth Committee on the selection of new topics to be added to its long-term program of work.
- The importance of mobilizing resources to ensure that the plenary sessions of the ILC can be webcasted, hence facilitating engagement of Member States and civil society with the work of the Commission.
- We request for the operationalization of the mandate under which the International Law Commission would also convene its plenary sessions in New York, and for which we wish this to be allocated in the Programme of work for the corresponding session.
- Finally, in accordance with paragraph 42 of General Assembly resolution 77/335, which welcomed the increasing number of women candidates for subsidiary organs and encouraged Member States to continue to present female candidates, we express concern that the current composition of the International Law Commission does not meet this mandate. Hence,

cognizant that gender parity is yet to be achieved in its composition, we encourage Member States to bear this in mind when nominating candidates for the Commission.

3. International Law Week Side Events:

For International Law Week we exhort delegations to hold side events that do not undermine the participation, importance and significance of the plenary debate. We also encourage Member States to consider the practice of keeping gender parity and geographical representation among its panelists at these events.

Mister President,

In conclusion, we look forward to your valuable guidance and the collaboration of all Member States to ensure the successful revitalization of the work of this Sixth Committee.

I thank you.