

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTH COMMITTEE - 80th SESSION

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

New York, 6 October 2025

Chair,

On behalf of the delegations of **Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa**, and my own country, **El Salvador**, 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 undoubtedly contribute to a productive session of the Sixth Committee. We reiterate our full support to you and all members of the Bureau. **We also express our gratitude to the Codification Division for its important work, particularly under the current human and financial constraints.**

Reflecting on our previous statement delivered during the 79th session, we wish to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to a continued discussion on the working methods of this Committee. As expressed before, 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.

This session takes place at a particularly challenging moment.

Since its inception, the Organization has played a fundamental role in the progressive development and codification of international law. Over the past 80 years, it has contributed to the creation of multilateral treaties and model instruments in areas of global concern, including human rights, disarmament, criminal justice, the law of the sea, environmental protection, international trade law and others.

Nevertheless, amid increasing geopolitical tensions and rapid technological advancements that deepen existing inequalities, international law is being put to the test. In a world where its relevance is often questioned, it must be upheld.

And in a world where technological change exacerbates divides between nations, international law must evolve to remain effective and responsive to these new realities.

We firmly believe that this body - the General Assembly's Sixth Committee - continues to bear the main responsibility for the codification and progressive development of international law. It is essential for us, as Member States, to adopt an action-oriented approach in fulfilling 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 79/327 Paragraph 25):

The General Assembly has requested each of the Main Committees to review their working methods during the eightieth session and **submit concrete proposals** to the General Committee on how to make their work more efficient and effective.

In light of this renewed mandate, it remains important to continue monitoring and taking into account the inputs provided by delegations to the Bureau's focal point on this matter. The discussions held under the current agenda item constitute a valuable reference point for our collective efforts to further enhance the Committee's working methods and programme of work. **In this regard we congratulate Mrs. Estela Nze Mansogo of Equatorial-Guinea on her appointment as focal point for revitalization matters and assure her of our support.**

We encourage incoming Bureaus to keep this practice, bearing in mind the need to ensure an equal regional rotation of this role.

On the broader **UN 80 reform initiative**, we also underscore the importance of ensuring that efforts to review the budget with a view to enhancing efficiency **do not undermine** the important regional courses organized under the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, established since 1965.

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. **The holding of an annual briefing by the ILC to the sixth committee delegations has proven to be both valuable and useful in getting us better prepared for the annual discussion on the report of the ILC.**

Now more than ever, we must strengthen the role and performance of this subsidiary organ. While we recognize the complexities of the ongoing liquidity crisis and the considerations being addressed in the context of the UN80 reform, the work of the International Law Commission must not be undermined.

Some persistent needs in this regard include:

- a) 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,
- b) 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.
- c) In line with paragraph 42 of General Assembly resolution 77/335 – which welcomes the growing number of women candidates for subsidiary organs and encourages Member States to continue nominating them – we express concern that the current composition of the International Law Commission still falls short of this objective.

3. International Law Week Side Events:

For International Law Week, we encourage delegations to organize side events in a manner that does not detract from the participation, importance and significance of the plenary debate. We further encourage Member States to ensure the practice of keeping gender parity and geographical representation among its panelists at these events.

4. Multilingualism

As recalled by the General Assembly in resolution 79/327, multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter. We therefore appeal for continued efforts to ensure that multilingualism is not undermined. **We take this opportunity to pay tribute to interpreters and translators who, behind the scenes, contribute to upholding multilingualism.**

[Reads in French]

4. Multilinguisme

Comme l'a rappelé l'Assemblée générale dans sa résolution 79/327, le multilinguisme, en tant que valeur fondamentale de l'Organisation, contribue à la réalisation des buts des Nations Unies, tels qu' énoncés à l'Article premier de la Charte. Nous appelons, par conséquent, à poursuivre les efforts visant à ne pas mettre en péril le multilinguisme. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour rendre hommage aux interprètes et traducteurs qui contribuent, en coulisses, à préserver le multilinguisme.

In this regard, the value of multilingualism must be upheld not only in documentation and conference services but also across the United Nations system and its organs, including the International Court of Justice. In accordance with Article 39 of its Statute, the Court also authorizes languages other than French or English to be used by any party upon request. Measures have to be promoted to alleviate the growing demand for the use of other languages in the International Court of Justice, including Spanish.

[Reads in Spanish]

En este sentido, el valor del multilingüismo debe preservarse no sólo en la documentación y los servicios de conferencias, sino también en todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y sus órganos, incluida la Corte Internacional de Justicia. De conformidad con el Artículo 39 de su Estatuto, la Corte también autoriza el uso de idiomas distintos del francés o el inglés por cualquiera de las partes, previa solicitud. Deben promoverse medidas para atender la creciente demanda del uso de otros idiomas en la Corte Internacional de Justicia, incluido el español.

Chair,

Allow me to conclude by welcoming the recent amendment to the General Assembly's rules of procedure, which entered into effect at the opening of the eightieth session, as reflected in annex I of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly. This amendment represents a significant step forward in promoting gender equality in the UN system.

In closing, we look forward to your valuable guidance, as well as the continued cooperation of all Member States, in our shared efforts to ensure the successful revitalization of the work of this Sixth Committee.

I thank you.