

## PROPOSALS FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Non-paper*

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Since 1993, the General Assembly has adopted several resolutions containing specific measures aimed at rationalizing its working methods and improving its efficiency. However these measures including those adopted after 2000 failed to achieve the main goal set in paragraph 30 of the Millennium Declaration which is *“to restore the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative policy making and representative organ of the UN and to enable it to play its role effectively”*.

In order to achieve this goal, three series of actions and measures could be envisaged.

### I. Further rationalize the working methods of the General Assembly through:

- Effective, full and proper implementation of the resolutions on revitalization, including the two landmark resolutions recently adopted 58/126 of the 19 December 2003 and 58/316 of 1 July 2004;
- shortening the agenda (as suggested by the High-level Panel): biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items. In accordance with the guidelines outlines in annex I to resolution 48/264 (which is incorporated in the rules of procedures), the plenary of the General Assembly must be a forum for high-level policy statements as well as for the consideration of agenda items of political importance and/or of urgency and substantive items initially allocated directly to the plenary could be reviewed for allocation to a main Committee;
- issuance well in advance of the documentation and reports (compliance with the six-weeks rule for the issuance of official documents);
- accelerating the flow of information and diminishing the paper work through, *inter alia*, rationalization of reporting requirements and consolidation of reports (paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300);
- adoption of guidelines for the drafting of resolution (shortening the preambular part);
- establishment of monitoring mechanism or procedures for the follow up of resolutions which require concrete implementation;
- devising original formulas for interactive discussions with the participation of representatives of civil society;
- a better organization and sequencing of the work of the General Assembly throughout the year;
- determining whether it is more appropriate to continue to adopt consensual draft resolutions or to take

different course of action in order to avoid lengthy negotiations and ambiguities in the content of the resolutions.

## **II. Enhance the authority and visibility of the General Assembly through:**

- A further strengthening of the prerogatives and role of the President of the General Assembly to enable him to play a leadership role and to take, when circumstances permit, initiatives and decisions such as holding informal or formal meetings to discuss issues of particular interest to Member States, requesting briefing by the Secretariat on issues pertaining to the mandate of the General Assembly including in peace and security, convening press conferences to highlight particular issues discussed by the Assembly or decisions adopted by the latter; there is also a need for better transitional arrangements for the President perhaps including the use of a "Troika" of past and future General Assembly Presidents;
- a further reinforcement of the role of the General Committee to enable it to play a more active role, and to act as a "bureau";
- enhancement of the public profile of the work of the General Assembly by the Department of Public Information and the office of the President (as requested in resolution 58/126);
- suggestion by the president-elect of issues of global concern upon which Member States will be invited to comment during the General debate (as requested in resolution 58/126).

## **III. Create a more balanced relationship between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the ECOSOC:**

- Establishing a genuine balance between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in dealing with issues related to peace and security, with strict respect by each organ of its mandate as defined by the United Nations Charter; In this regard, holding frequent consultations between the Presidents of the GA, SC and ECOSOC and their three offices could be extremely useful, so as to avoid any duplication and overlapping;
- ensuring a better follow-up of the reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly by thoroughly considering some aspects of the reports in the context of informal consultations to be conducted by the President of the General Assembly (as decided in resolution 58/126 and previous relevant resolutions);
- creating a working and constructive relationship between the General Assembly and the ECOSOC and ensuring a better coordination among the ECOSOC and the second and the Third committee on topical development issues that require coordination action by the United Nations system and the international community as a whole.