



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26 January 2012

Excellency,

I would like to refer to my letter of 28 November 2011 informing you of the appointment of H.E Mr. Ombeni Y. Sefue, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, and H.E. Mr. Alexander Lomaia, Permanent Representative of Georgia, to serve as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.

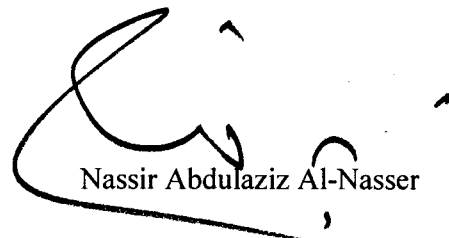
You would recall that the General Assembly resolution 65/315 adopted on 12 September 2011 decided to establish the Working Group, open to all Member States, in order "to identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly". The Working Group is mandated "to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session".

I have been advised by Ambassador Sefue that he is returning home upon instructions of his Government to take up a new responsibility. I have the honor to inform you that I have, therefore, appointed H.E Mrs. Susan Waffa-Ogoo, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations, to serve as a Co-Chair to succeed Ambassador Sefue.

I would like to thank Ambassador Waffa-Ogoo for accepting this responsibility and trust you will extend your full cooperation and support to her.

I also take this opportunity to wish Ambassador Sefue all the best in his upcoming important assignment.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser".

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Member States and
Permanent Observers to the
United Nations



THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 March 2012

Excellency,

I would like to refer to my letter on the 26 January 2012 on the appointment of co-chairs of the Ad hoc working group on General Assembly Revitalization.

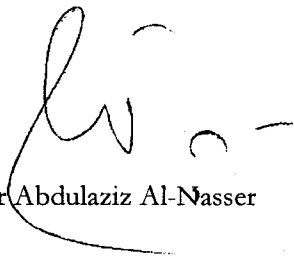
As you are aware, I have adopted United Nations Reform and Revitalization as one of my four key priorities of action, through the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Indeed, the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the comprehensive reform of the UN.

More than ever before, events around the world necessitate a strong and responsive General Assembly. I invite you all to continue to act sincerely with a view to restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly.

In this regard, I have the pleasure to include herewith a letter addressed to member states from H.E. Mrs. Susan Waffaa-Ogoo, Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Alexander Lomaia, Permanent representative of Georgia to the United Nations, charting the course forward with regard to this very important issue.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank Ambassador Ogoo and Ambassador Lomaia for their sincere endeavours, and trust that you would continue to extend your full cooperation and support to the process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.


Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
GEORGIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 7 March, 2012

Excellency,

The President of the General Assembly appointed us as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly which was established by resolution 65/315. We are committed to perform this task with great responsibility and will spare no effort to promote confidence, spirit of cooperation and openness in the Group to achieve a fruitful and satisfying outcome. In this effort, we will strive to build on the results achieved by our predecessors Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis, Permanent Representative of Lithuania.

We would like to invite you to the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group which will take place from 3:00 p.m. until 6 p.m. on 27 March in a room to be announced in the UN Journal. At this meeting, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser will share his views on the role and authority of the General Assembly and the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

The Ad Hoc Working Group is open to all Member States and is mandated to "identify further ways to enhance the role, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on previous resolutions and evaluating the status of their implementation".

During our first meeting delegations will have an opportunity to share their general views on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations and enhancement of the role, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly. We would like to encourage your delegation to further develop its views and present concrete proposals on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly at the meeting of the Working Group on 27 March.

We would appreciate your delegation's active participation at this meeting and look forward to a productive and lively discussion.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Mr. Alexander Lomaia
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
Georgia
to the United Nations

H.E. Mrs. Susan Waffa-Ogoo
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of the Gambia
to the United Nations



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 April 2012

Excellency

I would like to refer to my letter on the 26 January 2012 on the appointment of co chairs of the Ad hoc working group on General Assembly Revitalization.

As you are aware, I have adopted United Nations Reform and Revitalization as one of my four key priorities of action, through the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Indeed, revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the comprehensive reform of the UN.

More than ever before, events around the world necessitate a strong and responsive General Assembly. I invite you all to continue to act sincerely with a view to restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly.

In this regard, I have the pleasure to include herewith, a letter addressed to member states from H.E Mrs.Susan Waffaa-Ogoo, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr.Alexander Lomaia, Permanent representative of Georgia, in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on revitalization of the General Assembly, charting the course forward with regard to this very important subject.

I fully support Ambassador Ogoo and Ambassador Lomai, in their active and sincere endeavors under my vigilant guidance. I would like to encourage all member states to extend their most valuable support to the Co-Chairs endeavors, and to continue the constructive engagement and contribution to the process of General Assembly Revitalization.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
GEORGIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE GAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 11 April, 2012

Excellency,

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG) we would like to thank all delegations for their contributions at the first meeting of the AHWG held on 27 March 2012. Having met the representatives of different groups and interested individual Member States, and have carefully considered their proposals, recommendations and ideas, we would now like to invite you to the forthcoming thematic debates of the Working Group.

We intend to hold the first thematic meeting of the AHWG on 19 April 2012 to discuss the role and authority of the General Assembly and its relationship to the principal organs of the United Nations and other groups outside the United Nations. We would like to invite you to refer also to the annex contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the sixty-third session (document A/63/959) and to present your views on the status of the implementation of those items related to the role and authority of the General Assembly and its relationship to the other principal organs of the United Nations.

At the second thematic debate, which we plan to hold on 30 April 2012, we intend to exchange views on the questions pertaining to the working methods of the General Assembly, implementation of General Assembly resolutions and the agenda, as well as other operational and technical issues, including options for more time-effective, efficient and secure balloting in the General Assembly.

We propose to dedicate the third thematic debate, to be held on 10 May 2012, to the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as in the selection of candidatures for other executive Heads of the UN system.

Our fourth thematic meeting, scheduled for 1 June 2012 will focus on the functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including strengthening its institutional memory as well as its relationship with the Secretariat.

We look forward your active participation in the forthcoming thematic debates and to hear your concrete proposals and recommendations regarding the respective topics on the agenda.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Alexander Lomaia
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Georgia to the United Nations



Susan Waffa-Ogoo
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of The Gambia to the United Nations

Successes and Challenges

The Documentation Workflow and the AHWG on Revitalization

Magnus Olafsson, Director, MPD,
DGACM, 30 April 2012

Three Issues to be Discussed

- **Tangible Results Achieved by the AHWG**
 - Meaningful resolutions
 - Measurable and true savings
- **Accessibility**
- **The Way Forward**
 - The new e-services business model
 - E-services at Rio+20

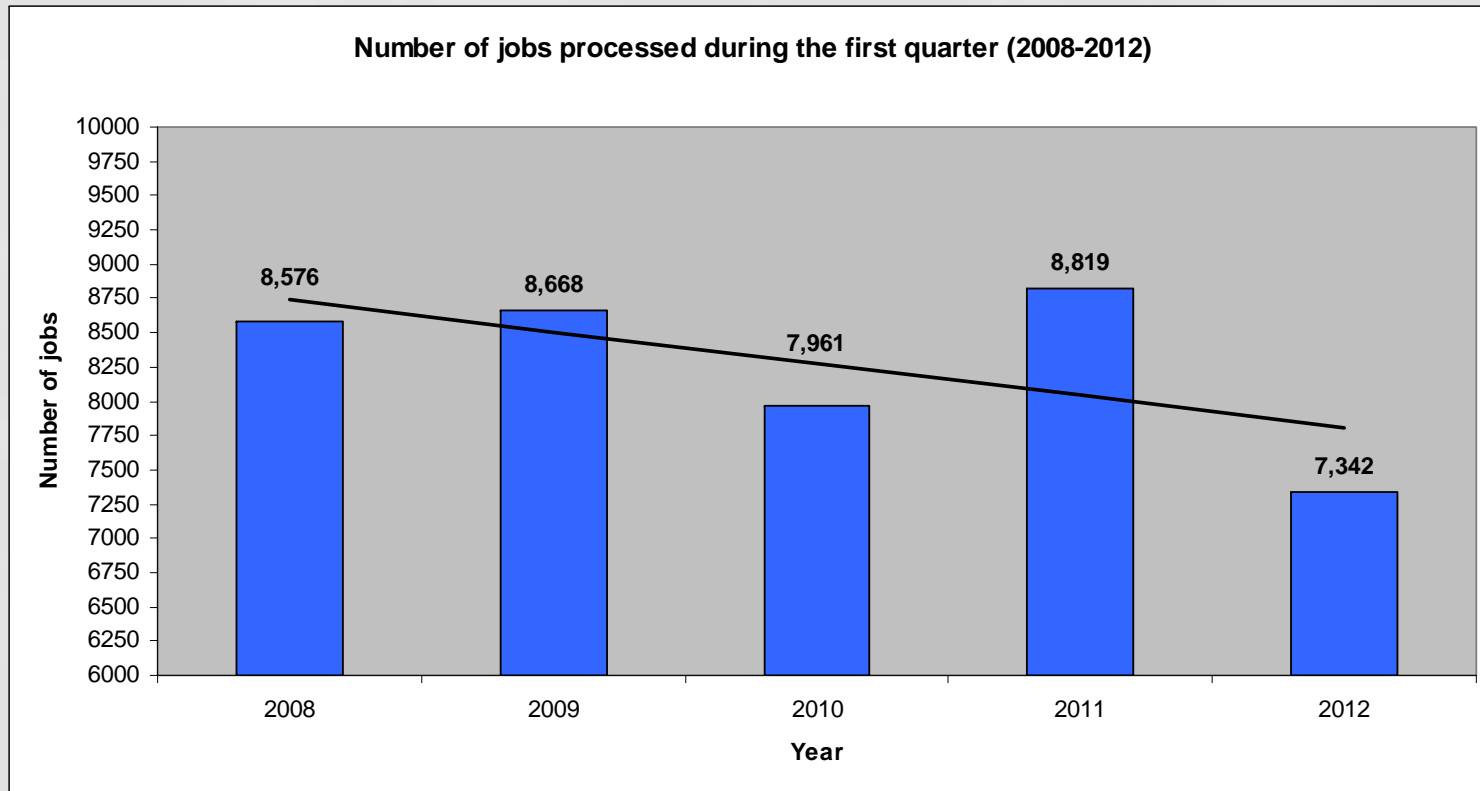
I. Relevant Resolutions

- A/RES/64/301: Encourage Member States to make full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, taking into account the cost savings and the reduced environmental impact
- A/RES/65/315: Encourage the Secretariat to consolidate documents to avoid duplication
- A/RES/55/285: Availability of electronic documents in the meeting rooms

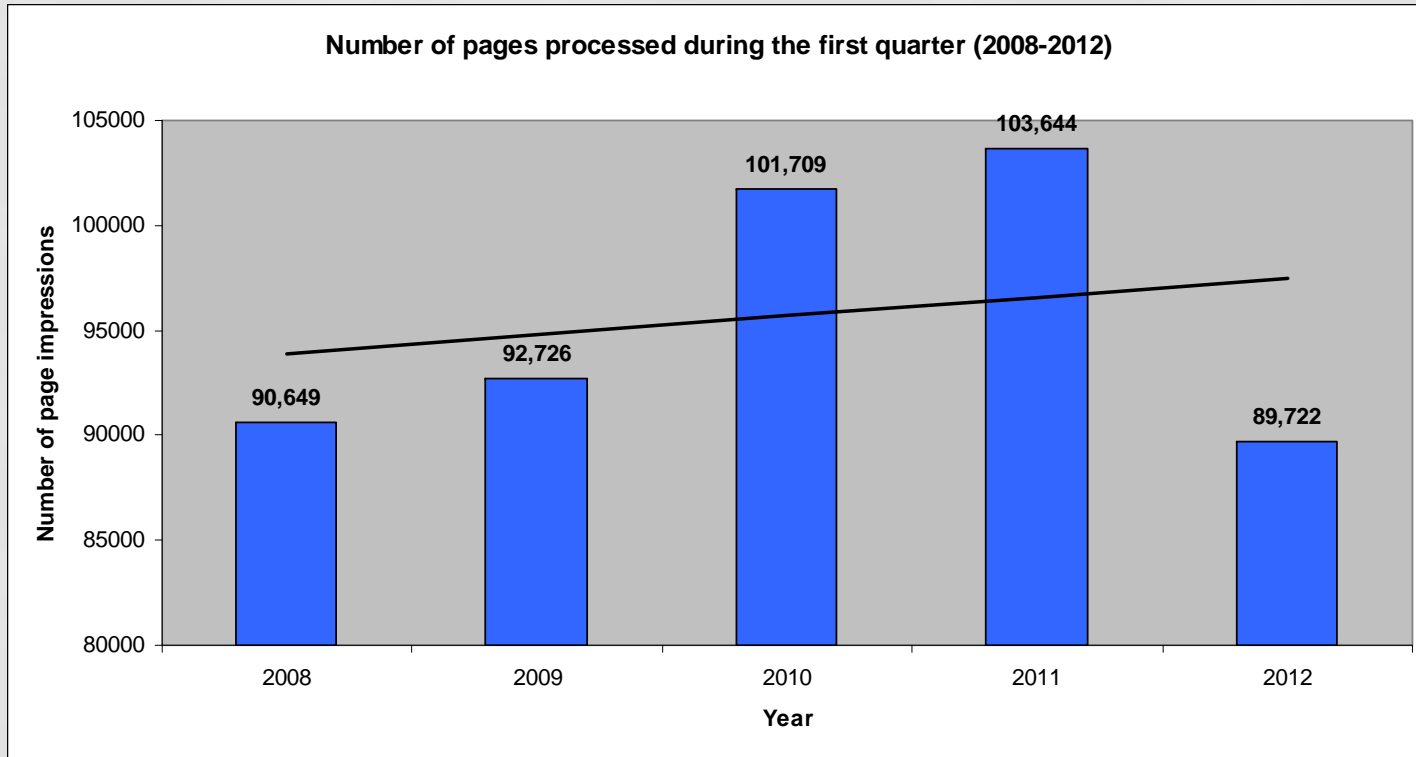
The Three Variables

- Number of jobs (documents)
- Number of pages
- Number of page impressions (printing)

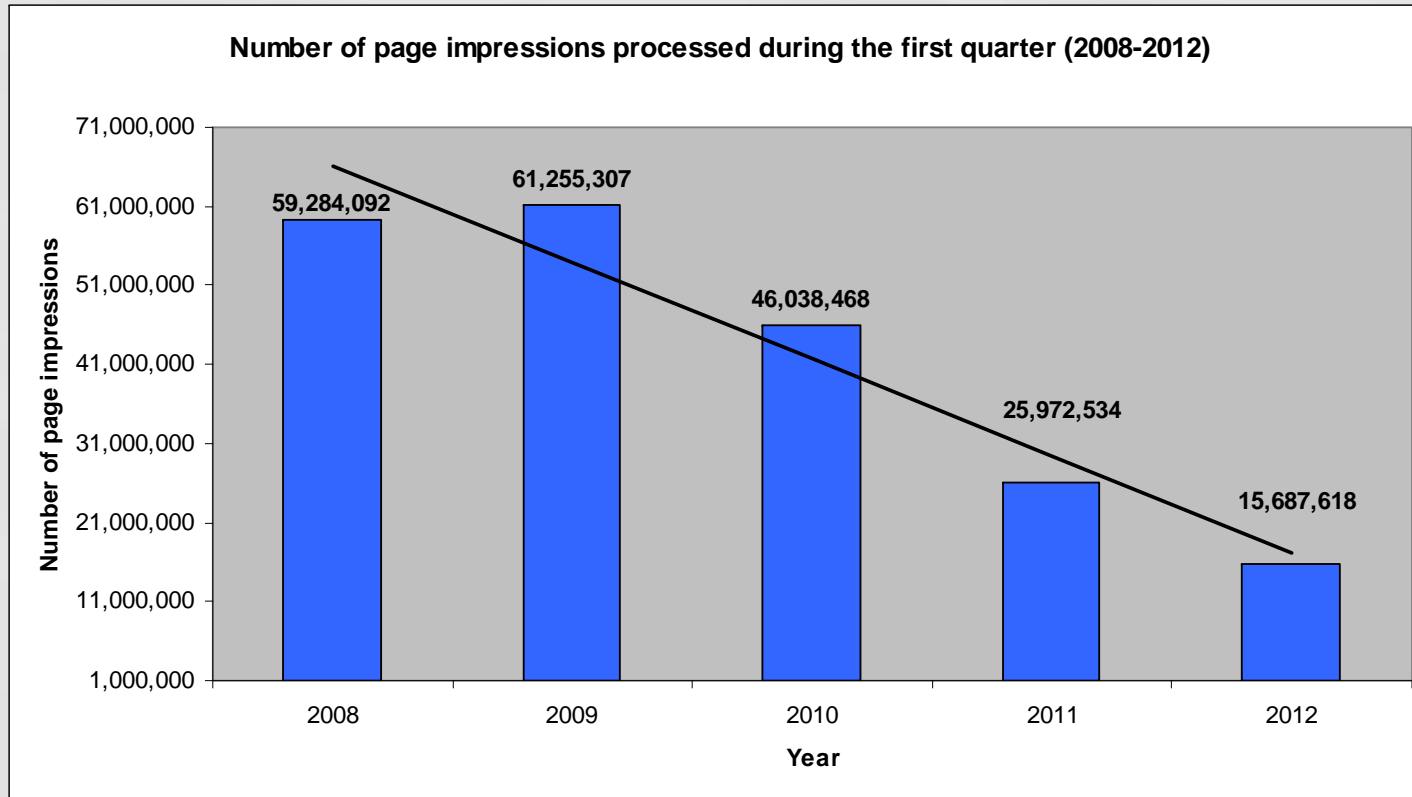
Number of jobs handled (1st Quarter of 2008 – 2012)



Number of pages processed (1st Quarter of 2008 – 2012)



Number of page impressions (1st Quarter of 2008 – 2012)



II. Accessibility

- GA adopted (61/106) the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Article 21 is on the freedom of persons with disabilities to use information on an equal basis with others
- CRPD recognizes access to ICT as a basic human right
- A/66/462/Add.1 requests the SG to continue the progressive implementation to enable accessibility of services

III. The Way Forward

- A new business model is based on four pillars:
 - Portal
 - E-Publishing
 - E-tools
 - Print-on-Demand
- Benefits:
 - Sustainability
 - Efficiency
 - Accessibility
 - Knowledge Management



3rd Intersessional Meeting of UNCSD, UN Secretariat

March 26, 2012 to March 27, 2012

New York

[Road to Rio](#) | [Programme of the Day](#) | [Provisional Agenda](#) | [Documents](#) | [Meeting Records](#) |

Programme of the Day for March 27, 2012

SESSION	START AND END TIME	LOCATION	AGENDA ITEMS
Session 3	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Room ECOSOC, NLB	Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document
Session 4	3:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Room ECOSOC, NLB	Informal informal consultations on the Compilation text of the Zero draft of the Outcome document
Closing session	5:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Room ECOSOC, NLB	Remarks by Co-chair, Amb. Ashe or Amb. Kim Remarks by Mr. Sha Zukang, CSG

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JUNE 20, 2012 - JUNE 22, 2012 - RIO DE JANEIRO

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20



Summary

Programme of the Day

Provisional Agenda

Documents

Meeting Records

Media

Webcast



Updates

[VIEW ALL](#)

MEDIA - 2:30 PM, JUNE 20, 2012
[Daily Press Release, June 20 2012](#)

RADIO - 2PM, JUNE 20, 2012
[The Future We Want](#)

PROGRAMME - 12PM, JUNE 20, 2012
[Special Note to Attendees](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT - 10AM, JUNE 20, 2012
[Intermittent Wifi Issues](#)

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Today's Programme

10AM - 1PM, [PLENARY HALL](#)
[1st Plenary Meeting \(Formal Opening\)](#)

AGENDA
 DOCUMENTS: 13

3PM - 4PM, [PLENARY HALL](#)
[2nd Plenary Meeting \(Ceremonial Opening\)](#)

AGENDA
 DOCUMENTS: 13

4.30PM - 6PM, [PLENARY HALL](#)
[2nd Plenary Meeting \(Continued\)](#)

AGENDA
 DOCUMENTS: 13

4.30PM - 6PM, TBA
[Meeting of the Main Committee and General](#)

UN Rio Journal

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Misión Permanente de Chile ante
Las Naciones Unidas

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, April 30, 2012

Check against delivery

Distinguished Co-Chairs: Ambassador Susan Waffaa-Ogoo, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations, and Ambassador Alexander Lomaia, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations.

First let me thank you for giving me the opportunity, in my capacity as Chairperson of the Sixth Committee at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, to address this Working Group established by resolution 65/315 on the important item of the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly and thus to contribute to the discussion of this topic.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Allow me from my vantage point as Chairperson of that Committee to put forward the following ideas on this topic.

1. Firstly, I believe that it is important to define the work and the function entrusted to the Sixth Committee within the General Assembly. This Committee is responsible for analyzing all the legal and juridical questions being considered by the Assembly. In the past, its work has produced important Conventions and legal instruments which today benefit the entire international community. It is also an important source of inspiration for those who devote themselves to the study of international law or who work in that area. Undoubtedly this gives the Committee a crucial role to play in the work being done by the General Assembly.
2. With specific reference to the item before us, the Legal Committee last year held a meeting on this subject. It adopted the provisional agenda with the calendar for the next Assembly session a task which it has been performing for some years now as a way of rationalizing the work and which has proved to make an effective contribution to its labour. In addition, the Sixth

Committee is usually asked to examine the entities which asked the Observer status in the Assembly, and this requires at least one meeting over the approved calendar.

3. Traditionally the item on Revitalization of the General Assembly and particularly at the improvement of the working methods, the Sixth Committee is addressed by several regional groups, which make comments that they believe can help to improve those methods. During 2011, the Rio Group made statements on this item and on that occasion my country, representing Rio Group member States, made suggestions on the effective use of electronic media, transparency in the negotiation of resolutions among other matters.
4. As far as the work of the Sixth Committee at its sixty-sixth session is concerned, I believe that the results were good. There were 30 plenary meetings, three working groups were established and were adopted by consensus 22 resolutions and five decisions. Last December, the General Assembly endorsed these actions by adopting the resolutions and decisions by consensus.
5. I shall now venture to comment on some aspects of the working methods and to put forward some substantive ideas.
 - a) Elements to be highlighted include the fact that meetings respected the agreed calendar and the allotted time. An addition to the original calendar was the analysis of nine institutions' asking the quality of observer status and this required the addition of two meetings. Periods during which no formal discussion was being held were used for informal consultations on the resolutions. In this connection, I announced and emphasized to the Sixth Committee, to the Bureau and particularly to the coordinators of resolutions that the texts of resolutions should be circulated in advance and that all resolutions should be discussed in at least one meeting of informal, open, transparent and inclusive consultations.
 - b) Aspects to be developed, in my opinion, include the need for various improvements in working methods. For example, there should be a reconsideration of the need for annual discussion of some Agenda Items, which may eventually become repetitive and without substantive contribution. One possibility would be to consider some Items in a summary form or to group items on the same subject. As regards procedural aspects, the main point is that there should be open and inclusive consultations on all the resolutions of the Sixth Committee. In addition, in order to make better use of existing resources, delegations' statements could be issued electronically instead of being distributed at the Conference Room.
 - c) In addition, regarding more substantive aspects, the actual debate is extremely formal, so that many of the Items placed on the Agenda eventually become just a ritual and there is no real discussion. Ways could be sought to make the debate more interactive and substantive. Some items exist which have been studied by the International Law Commission and then referred to the Sixth Committee for decision, without the Committee ever having analyzed them substantively. I refer, for example, to the items on Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts and on Diplomatic Protection. During the year, an ad hoc or Working Group of the Sixth Committee could identify problems with the items in question, with a view to subsequent adoption of Conventions if so, as advocated by the ILC, or of other legal instruments. The

present agenda of the Sixth Committee also includes some items which could be discussed in greater depth by delegations. Often this does not happen because there is little time for discussion in the Committee. A clear example of this is the Item on the Rule of Law, on which much work remains to be done but which has not yet been given the proper organized and systematic consideration. In my opinion, this cannot be done without a clearer commitment.

- d) An important part of the Sixth Committee's work is consideration of the Report of the International Law Commission, which traditionally takes two weeks and which is clearly the most important question allocated to the Sixth Committee. Various aspects of the treatment of this Item should be improved.

As it is well known, in the period during which the ILC report is considered, delegations analyze the various topics studied by ILC, make comments and suggestions and often respond to specific questions addressed to countries by ILC on varied legal issues. This segment of the Sixth Committee's work is traditionally attended by Legal Advisers from the capitals, so that it becomes a forum for legal interaction of various kinds.

One key point is that, for the debate on the ILC report, it is vital for delegations to receive the report advanced on time. The report usually has over 400 pages and contains the legal discussion held by ILC members at sessions during the year in question. Countries need to study this background material at least three months before the Item is discussed. This will enable delegations to conduct the appropriate analysis.

Perhaps the best way to ensure that the Report becomes available earlier is for ILC to meet earlier in the year, so as to allow time for efficient work. In addition, although the calendar of Assembly meetings allocates two weeks to consideration of the Report, in practice this does not happen, since during these weeks there are meetings of Legal Advisers and a discussion of the reports of the International Court of Justice and of the International Criminal Court, both in the plenary Assembly. Ultimately this curtails consideration of the item.

A second comment in this connection is that, like the other Sixth Committee meetings, the debate is extremely formal. A formula should be sought that would allow greater delegation interaction on substantive ILC items. This would enhance the discussion of ideas and concepts and would also allow delegations to become more familiar with the work of ILC. One possibility might be to have a system whereby the Sixth Committee, through a working group or an ad hoc group, would decide hold informal consultations during the year on any of the ILC items. In this way, delegations could participate more actively in the work of ILC, at the same time improving the input required of them by the Commission.

The participation of the Rapporteurs in the debate on the ILC report is essential. It is crucial for them to be present during the introduction of the report on topics which they are analyzing.

A fourth point concerning the ILC report is that the Commission should bear in mind the need for it to be more accessible to the Sixth Committee. At least some of the ILC sessions over a five-year period should be held in New York. This would also enable delegations to be more conversant with the work of the Commission.

Lastly, analysis of the ILC report should not coincide with the analysis of other topics pertaining to legal matters. It has already happened that, during two previous Assembly sessions,

meetings of the General Assembly on the reports of the International Court of Justice and of the International Criminal Court have been scheduled at the same time as meetings of the Sixth Committee on the report of the International Law Commission. Revitalization also involves creating the necessary space for appropriate and opportune analysis of issues. The overlapping of items does not promote this.

6. Finally, as regards the work of the Sixth Committee, I must emphasize the important role played in its work by the United Nations Secretariat and particularly the Sixth Committee Secretariat. As Chairperson of the Sixth Committee, I am grateful for the assistance given to me and to the Bureau during the session. The Secretariat is vital for a focused discussion of the items and should certainly contribute to the extent possible. Timely issuance of reports by the Secretariat is essential. The necessary support given by the Secretariat to delegations and to the Bureau in the consideration of topics and in logistics is crucial for the smooth organization of work.

In this connection, I suggest that use should be made of technology: a suitable web page with information on the items allocated to the Sixth Committee; a website where delegations can find relevant reports; advance information on formal and informal meetings; posting of draft resolutions on web pages; and material for a database providing information to delegates (phone numbers and e-mail addresses should also be assembled by the Secretariat and distributed to delegations).

Distinguished Co-Chairs, I should like to conclude this brief statement by reiterating on my own behalf and on behalf of my Government my gratitude for being allowed to take part in this debate. In my opinion, the revitalization of the Assembly involves not only working methods but also a genuine desire on the part of delegations to discuss substantive items of interest to the entire international community.

**Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the GA
(Monday, 30 April 2012 – ECOSOC Chamber)
Statement by Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen
Chair, Second Committee**

Co-Chairs, Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman,

At the outset, I specially thank Co-chairs of today's event, PRs of Gambia and Georgia for arranging this meeting.

1. You all know that the effectiveness of the work of this Second Committee is an important determinant of the fulfillment of UN development agenda. This year, the Second Committee considered 15 agenda items and 25 sub-items, including a new item on "People's empowerment" a sustainable development model. This resulted in 40 formal meetings and 278 informal "informal" consultations, without counting other types of *ad hoc* informal consultations and the Bureau meetings, formal and informal ones.
2. A total of 46 resolutions and 6 decisions were adopted. The Committee traditionally strives to work by consensus. In this respect, only 4 draft resolutions were voted on. However, I am delighted to inform that breaking a streak of voting for 8 years, we have been able to adopt a resolution on trade by consensus this year.
3. In order to complete its program of work, the Committee required 2 extensions, stretching the program from the originally planned 8 weeks to 10 weeks.

General Debate (3-5 October 2011)

4. During the Committee's three-day General Debate, statements were made by 73 member States, two observers and three specialized agencies. Neither the EU, speaking as a major group, nor its members participated in the General Debate.
5. Delegations expressed their views on a range of issues pertaining to the Committee's work. These included the world economic and financial situations in a precarious phase of uncertainty; global economic governance; the fragile uneven economic recovery, jobless growth, commodity price volatility especially food and fuel price hike, sluggish international trade, deflation in share market bubble and fear of spreading sovereign debt crisis, the UN

Conference on Sustainable Development; sustainable development issues including climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought; MDG Summit implementation and post-2015 UN development agenda; development cooperation; countries in special situations, for example, LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, Africa; and new proposals and initiatives. In the follow-up of the IPoA, the member states agreed that 'business-as-usual' is not going to help graduate half of the LDCs as postulated in the IPoA.

Special events

6. The Committee continued its unique tradition of holding special events on key issues and emerging challenges in development, designed to inform the work of the Committee and bring it into contact with new and cutting edge thinking from leading figures in academia and development practitioners.
7. A total of 6 such special events were held on the following: (i) alternative development strategies for job creation; (ii) people's empowerment: a peace model; (iii) follow-up to the LDC IV Conference: integrating its provisions into national plans and policies; (iv) means of implementation for sustainable development; (v) food and energy security and energy efficiency; and (vi) financing for development: donor accountability in increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development.

Joint events of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council

8. For the first time ever, 2 joint events of the 2nd Committee and of ECOSOC were held. The first was a briefing by Nobel Laureate Professor Joseph Stiglitz on the global economic situation and sovereign debt crisis and the second was a discussion on the topic "Investing in productive capacity for job-rich growth" with the participation of Ms. Bachelet (UN-Women), Mr. Somavia (ILO) and Mr. Kwame Sundaram (DESA).
9. Aside from the timeliness of the subject matter, such joint events between the Committee and the Council represents the form of cooperation and synergy essential to have UN system-wide coherence to respond to global challenges.

Other meetings

10. The Committee held a dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions and also heard a briefing by the World Bank and the IMF following the Fall meetings of the BWIs in Washington, D.C.

WORKING METHODS

11. It may be recalled that the Second Committee was the only Main Committee to adopt a decision on its methods of work during the 65th session of the GA under the chairmanship of Ambassador Ochir (Mongolia) vide GA Reso. 65/530.
12. Naturally all efforts were made to abide by this decision, though some challenges remain. It was suggested by few member states to streamline draft texts and proposals avoiding long texts and duplication.
13. It is important that there be a holistic follow-up to the GA decision on working methods and the 67th Committee should set aside a proper amount of time specifically to address this follow-up – possibly both at the start as well as at the end of the session.
14. It is very important to have all of the members of the Bureau (Chair, 3 Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur) elected at the time of the election of the PGA, three months prior to the start of the GA session.
15. The incoming and outgoing Bureaux should meet and exchange lessons learned.
16. The Bureau-elect should meet with the Secretariat ideally in June to prepare for the forthcoming session, including in terms of the programme of work, the special events and the appointment of facilitators who should be identified and appointed as early as possible.
17. The special/side events should be targeted and held well in advance of the negotiations on resolutions on similar themes in order to feed into those discussions.
18. Debates on the various agenda items should take place as early as possible so that the deadlines for submission of draft proposals can also be set as early as possible.
19. Chairs of the formal meetings of the Committee should enforce the time limits set for the interventions during the general debate and during the debates on the individual agenda items.
20. The Committee should consider the merits of a macroeconomic omnibus resolution.
21. It is crucial that groups of States or individual Member States putting forward draft resolutions keep to the deadlines provided by the Bureau to avoid unnecessary delays in the work of the Committee.

22. The Bureau should continue to enforce the deadlines for submission of draft proposals and a balanced approach should be taken on the issue of enforcing deadlines for the finalization of negotiations.
23. The Bureau and the negotiating parties should regularly consult on how best to respect and enforce deadlines.
24. The Bureau should begin appointing facilitators for the negotiation of draft proposals well before the start of the work of the Committee. Again, this would only be doable if the Bureau is elected well in advance of the start of the session.
25. Last year, a total of 43 facilitators were required.
26. On the question of the participation of the EU in the work of the UN, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the GA may wish to address the matter in light of the challenges faced by the Bureau of the Committee, as well as some of the other Main Committee Bureaux.
27. The issue of how we reference budgetary implications is crucial if we are to prevent more logjams in 2nd Committee. There should be, before the next session of the Committees, a cross-Committee discussion on how to deal in a consensual manner with the issue of the budgetary consequences of the resolutions adopted by the Committees.
28. Rationalization of the agenda (through bi/triennialization, merging of themes when possible, or discontinuation) should be considered.

In conclusion, I have no doubt that in future, under the stress of increasing global challenges and in the face of wide-spread and instant media exposure, and ever increasing demands and hopes of the global community on the UN General Assembly, the member states will work together with more commitment, vigor and dynamism to help achieve the hopes and goals of mankind. Thank you, Co-chairs.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
GEORGIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE GAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

7 May 2012

Excellency,

Pursuant to our letter dated 11 April by which we circulated our programme of work, we would now like to invite you to the forthcoming fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, which will take place on Thursday, 10 May at 10 a.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber.

In light of the outstanding list of speakers for the second thematic issue, namely “the working methods of the General Assembly, implementation of General Assembly resolutions and the agenda, as well as other operational and technical issues, including options for more time-effective, efficient and secure balloting in the General Assembly”, which we began to discuss at the meeting held on 30 April, we will first hear the remaining speakers on the list before moving on to the fourth meeting, which will focus on “the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as in the selection of candidatures for other executive Heads of the UN system.”

In light of these exigencies of time, we have invited the Secretariat to attend the fifth meeting, on 1 June, to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the update requested at the last meeting on whether there are any new technological developments regarding options for more time-effective, efficient and secure balloting, bearing in mind the need to ascertain the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of the balloting process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Alexander Lomaia
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Georgia to the United Nations

Susan Waffa-Ogea
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Gambia to the United Nations



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
GEORGIA
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**PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE GAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

29 May 2012

Excellencies,

It is our pleasure to confirm to you that the fourth thematic meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly will take place on Friday, 1 June 2012, at 10:00AM in Conference Room 1.

This meeting, which will focus on strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, will benefit from two briefings on that subject. The Chef de Cabinet of the President of the General Assembly has kindly agreed to brief delegations on this issue. In addition to this, pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 26 of resolution 65/315, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management will provide a briefing as well.

Further, as indicated in our letter to you of 7 May last, the Secretariat will provide an update on any new technological developments regarding options for more time-effective, efficient, and secure balloting, bearing in mind the need to ascertain the credibility, reliability, and confidentiality of the balloting process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Alexander Lomaia

Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Georgia to the United Nations

Susan Waffa-Ogoo

Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Gambia to the United Nations

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**His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the General Assembly**

**Remarks
To the Ad Hoc Working Group On the
Revitalization of the General Assembly**

**New York,
Friday, 1 June 2012**

**[Delivered by Ambassador Mutlaq Al-Qahtani,
Chef de Cabinet,
Office of the President of the General Assembly]**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the pleasure to participate in this important discussion on strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

2. I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Alexander Lomaia, Permanent Representative of Georgia, and Her Excellency Ms. Susan Waffa-Ogoo, Permanent Representative of the Gambia, for their close personal interest and commitment to the process of revitalization of the GA, in their capacity as co-chairs.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

3. Member States should redeem and act upon what our leaders reaffirmed and called for in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (Paragraph 150) – and this is: the full and speedy implementation of measures adopted by the General Assembly with a view to strengthening its role and authority as well as the role and the leadership of the President of the General Assembly.

4. The Assembly's agenda has evolved and grown enormously since the adoption of the General Assembly's first

resolution on its revitalization more than 20 years ago. The Assembly's work now extends beyond the main part of the session, and it remains actively engaged throughout the year.

5. Bearing in mind the Assembly's heavy and growing agenda, it is essential to fully understand the context within which the President of the General Assembly (PGA) currently undertakes his or her mandate. The PGA spearheads the efforts and the collective responsibility of Member States to:

- drive forward the agenda of the Assembly;
- lead and facilitate the follow-up processes on substantive mandates; and
- help to move forward processes when needed.

6. Additionally, in order to ensure that the voice of the General Assembly is heard worldwide, the President has the responsibility to conduct outreach on many levels. The Assembly has encouraged such actions by requesting that its Presidents to increase their public visibility.

7. The Presidents are therefore, obliged to broaden the scope of their duties beyond the UN Headquarters in New York, and across duty stations such as, Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, and elsewhere, in order to reaffirm the Assembly's central role in global norm-setting.

8. The President's outreach provides assurances, especially to marginalized and vulnerable communities of the world, that the United Nations stands in solidarity with them. The President's briefings to the general membership following such important meetings do not only enable Member States to remain up-to-date on the most recent developments, but also helps to bring key messages from far corners of the world to the international community.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I would now turn to the Office of the President itself.

9. The Office of the President of the General Assembly, like any other Office in this Organization, can discharge its functions effectively and efficiently only if it has adequate human and financial resources.

10. In light of the growing role of both the Assembly and the President, it is imperative that the PGA is supported by an able team. The Current PGA has carefully selected a competent team which is diverse, gender-balanced and representative of all regions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Member States who have provided Staff to the Office and supported our work.

11. It is worth mentioning that the contributions of some Member States in the form of secondments of staff, and

particularly the immense support of the Government of the State of Qatar in strengthening the Office of ~~66th~~^{the} Presidency, have gone a long way in supporting us to carry out the mandated activities in an effective manner.

12. With regard to the institutional memory of the Office, I would first like to mention here, as one of the best practices from our experience, that adequate time should be made available for a transition between the presidencies. Following his election, President Al-Nasser with his core team, opted to commence their work over a reasonable period that overlapped with the tenure of his predecessor. This interaction provided opportunity to share some of the best practices and lessons learned. This practice can be systematically expanded to other members of the PGA's team, so that effective hand-over processes between the incumbents and their successors can be implemented effectively.

13. Secondly, the possibility of using the expertise of a "Troika" ~~of~~ presidents – that is the past, present and in-coming GA Presidents - is an idea worth exploring. In this context, President Al-Nasser has remained in close contact with his predecessor, and this has contributed significantly in maintaining the institutional memory of the Office. The President stands ready to provide any assistance and support to the incoming President towards that end.

2/15

14. Thirdly, the proper documentation and archiving of the records of the Office, will be essential in maintaining the institutional memory of the Office.

15. During the 66th session, we have undertaken a number of measures in this regard, and these include, improving access to information, plus revamping and enhancing the PGA's website, with extra details of the President's meetings and participation in international forums.

16. We have also maintained a proper electronic archiving and record-keeping based on the work and contributions of various specialists and on the general activities of the Office.

17. In this connection, the services rendered by the speechwriter, a dedicated post provided during the 66th session, as well as the roles of the Spokesperson and her assistant in reporting the President's activities as well as maintaining the Office website have been instrumental in upholding the high standards of communication and transparency of the PGA. In view of these important functions, more can be achieved with the provision of dedicated additional staff, and we hope that the Assembly would consider approving resources in this regard under appropriate agenda.

18. Fourthly, since, some mandates of the General Assembly extend beyond one session, the retention of some of the core advisors would ensure continuity of functional expertise and thereby enhance the institutional memory of the Office.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

19. Our presidency believes that the road to success in the General Assembly must be founded on the principles of partnership and collective responsibility. In this regard, we have continued to strengthen the constructive cooperation that exists between the President Al-Nasser and the heads of other principal organs, as well as the specialized agencies. This is vital for the attainment of the common objectives. We are also trying our best to build on the Assembly's strong partnership with civil society organisations, NGOs and the private sector on issues of global concern – especially in the areas of inclusive and sustainable development, peace and security and human rights. In this regard, we appointed from the start of our tenure a Special Coordinator for Civil Society to facilitate a constructive and meaningful engagement of civil society in accordance with the rules and procedures set by Member States for every occasion. The capacity of the Office of the President to undertake effective and highly beneficial partnership with civil society should be strengthened to ensure continuity and greater benefits.

20. Effective coordination with the Secretary-General, as the Chief Executive of the Organization, and with the departments of the Secretariat has been instrumental in the successful performance of our Office. We are greatly appreciative of the services provided, in particular, by the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of the General Assembly and Conference Management, and the Department of Public Information, in support of our work.

21. The Secretary-General's close and constant cooperation with the President during this 66th Session and the support he provided to the work of our Office have been commendable. The success of some joint ventures undertaken by the President and the Secretary-General during this session is reflective of the quality of coordination and team work between the two offices.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

22. With regard to the budget allocated to the Office, it is surprising that at a time when the UN's overall budget has grown in every other area, the level of resources allocated to the Office - at US\$250,000 - has remained unchanged since it was last approved by the General Assembly for biennium 1998-1999. This is despite the exponential increase in the activities of the Office in recent years.

23. Since this budget allocation represents a small fraction of the costs needed to finance the activities of the Office from the regular/core budget, it has become necessary for the country of origin of the President to bear significant costs in order to cover the expenses required to finance the activities. This situation, as highlighted in the discussions during previous ad hoc working groups, exposes the financial vulnerabilities of the Office, and creates the risk of inequality among the Member States when considering candidatures for the post of the President.

24. Moreover, the Trust Fund established in support of the Office and used to cover the costs of PGA initiatives such as specific thematic debates, did not receive any contributions for the 66th session.

25. In view of the high-level functions discharged by the President of the General Assembly on behalf of the Organization, I would like to call upon the Member States to consider contributing generously to the work of the Office of the President in the coming sessions, either through the Trust Fund, secondments, or voluntary contributions.

26. The Office is currently faced with grave financial difficulties, particularly during the remainder of its term, despite the significant contributions of the Government of the

State of Qatar. The amount allocated from the regular budget has been fully depleted, with no capacity to absorb further expenditure and a zero balance in the Trust Fund.

27. It is, however, reassuring to note that, recognizing the difficult financial situation that the Office of the President has to face each session, the General Assembly in its resolution 66/246 on the proposed budget for 2012-2013 has requested the Secretary-General to submit in the context of the next budget, proposals to review the resource allocation to the Office of the PGA.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

28. We hope that, in order to ensure the independence and effective running of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the General Assembly will take adequate measures to improve the financial situation of the Office in the coming budget. This could be done, at least to match the evolution of the regular budget of the Organization, including by approving dedicated conference service resources and additional posts assigned to the Office.

29. The inadequacy of the resources currently available to the Office also undermines the President's outreach capacity, and therefore constrains effective participation in regional meetings and other international forums. The provision of additional

resources to enhance the President's outreach capacity would augur well for current efforts to improve the visibility of the Office and the work of the Organization at large.

30. As I conclude, I would like to note that, throughout the Presidency of this 66th session, we have been careful to build on the progress achieved during previous sessions on a variety of issues. We hope that incoming presidencies will also carry forward the progress we have managed to achieve during the 66th session – with the full support of Member States. We stand committed to continuing our efforts during the remainder of our term, in order to achieve further progress in the laudable objectives of promoting the General Assembly's central role in setting the global development agenda while adhering to the principles of building consensus and unifying the Assembly.

31. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to share with you some of our experiences in the Office of the President of the General Assembly. Thank you for allowing me to offer these recommendations for strengthening the Office.

I thank you all.

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Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT
THE MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP
ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 1 JUNE 2012**

Co-Chairs,

I wish to commend both Co-Chairs for the leadership and efforts demonstrated as co-facilitators of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the General Assembly for its 66th session. My delegation welcomes today's deliberation on an aspect of Revitalization that is no less important than the other thematic issues that fall under the ambit of the Ad Hoc Working Group, that is, on enhancing the functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly including strengthening its institutional memory. On this note, allow me to align my statement with that made by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Co-Chairs,

2. The General Assembly is the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. As mentioned in previous statements, there is much that needs to be done for the General Assembly to reclaim its central role in the UN system. The role and functions of its President is certainly an area of concern that the Assembly can improve on towards this end.

3. It is obvious that the role and activities of the PGA have evolved significantly over the years. As all of us are aware, there is a marked increase in the number of issues and agenda items that are considered by the General Assembly – a number that is growing every year. That apart, other activities that accompany this exponential growth include, but are not confined to, performing official duties such as attending a growing number of conferences and meetings; representing the General Assembly in official visits overseas; and, enhancing the visibility of the work of the General Assembly. Worst still is that in recent years, the workload of the General Assembly covers the whole year rather than be limited to its main session.

4. Due to the mounting work demand of the PGA, it is only natural that the office bearer be provided the necessary resources to enable him or her to perform the role that has been entrusted

upon the Office by the UN Charter more efficiently and effectively. On this, my delegation is concerned on the lack of implementation on relevant provisions of resolutions 64/301 and 65/315 for the Secretary General to submit proposals for the funding and staffing for the Office of the PGA. We hope that this matter could be looked into to ensure that the provisions are carried out accordingly.

Co-Chairs,

5. We are certainly wary of the benefits of the trust fund established to assist in the funding of the work of the PGA. Nevertheless, it is important that funding for the regular budget be increased as to avoid the PGA being dependant on the trust fund and voluntary contributions, including that from the office bearer's own State, to carry out the PGA activities. For one, this would discourage countries that lack financial resources from presenting a candidate to serve the post of PGA. Should a candidate from less developed countries manage to be elected as PGA, this would put him or her at a disadvantage in terms of performing his or her functions. It would also affect the credibility and impartiality of the post as the PGA would need to rely on contributions from others to perform his or her duties effectively. The PGA serves all Member States, big or small, rich or poor, and in this regard, would need to be allocated adequate funding from the UN regular budget and not be dependant on other sources of funding.

Co-Chairs,

6. In strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the PGA, my delegation is pleased with the current practice of electing the next PGA at least three months before he or she takes office. This enables the Presidents-elect to be more familiarized with the role and functions that he or she would be assuming as well as be better prepared for the work that lies ahead. We welcome the decision to allocate dedicated staff within the Secretariat with the responsibility of coordinating the transition between the incoming and outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly as well as managing interactions between the PGA and the Secretary General. Briefings by the outgoing President on lessons learned and best practices to the President-elect would also help enhance the institutional memory of the Office.

Co-Chairs,

7. My delegation stands ready to work with you and other delegations in enhancing the functions of the PGA and strengthening its institutional memory as part of the overall effort to revitalize the General Assembly. Rest assured of my delegation's fullest cooperation in your effort to make further progress in this regard.

I thank you.

Summary of resources given to the OPGA

Ad hoc working group on revitalization

1 June 2012

Resources granted to the OPGA are difficult to trace by traditional means for two reasons. First, resources come from many sources and so are embedded in numerous other budget lines. Second, the term of each PGA session covers two calendar years, and so the funds are allotted in two parts from our traditional calendar-based budgets.

Summary of resources comprise:

Staffing (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management) – in excess of \$1M/year

- Recruited by PGA:
 - 1 D-2 – Chef de Cabinet
 - 1 D-2 – Deputy Chef de Cabinet
 - 1 D-1 – Adviser
 - 1 P-5 – Adviser
 - 1 General service (currently webmaster)

- Supplied from within DGACM budget:
 - 2 Professional level staff
 - 2 General service staff
- DGACM makes available translators and text processors as needed, depending upon the language requirements of the office

- Supplied from within DGACM budget:
 - 2 Professional level staff

Budgetary (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management)

- A/52/303 established a budget of \$250,000, adjusted annually for inflation, to be used for reimbursement of all official travel, hospitality and incidental office expenses (currently approx \$300,000). The application of funds is at the full discretion of the President.

Travel (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management)

- At written invitation of a Government, or international, regional or supranational organization, President is entitled to reimbursement for travel and DSA of a party of 3 (including the President)
- Similar to the Secretary-General, the President is entitled to first class travel status

Official vehicle (Department of Management)

- President is provided with a car and driver to be used for official purposes

Security officers (Department of Safety and Security)

- President has a detail of two security officers on a routine basis, including during travel, in support of official functions

Spokesperson (Department of Public Information)

- President is entitled to select a Spokesperson for the term of office

IT equipment (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management/Office of Information and Communications Technology)

- The office and all staff are provided computer equipment, copiers and smart phones

Premises (Department of Management)

- Space is provided for the OPGA and his/her staff, as well as temporary space for the incoming/outgoing staff to adjust

Legal assistance/guidance (Office of Legal Affairs)

- OLA provides guidance to the PGA Office as requested

In light of the static nature of the funding, a trust fund was established in 2010 for the purpose of accepting voluntary funds to support the office. To date, seven contributions have been received, during the 64th and 65th sessions. As per the conditions of the trust fund, contributions are earmarked either for specific purposes or in support of specific meetings, and associated with a specific GA session.

During the preparation of the budget for 2012-2013, and in response to the resolutions 64/301 and 65/315, calling for ways in which to further support the Office, the USG/DGACM approached the then sitting President through the Office of the Secretary General, inviting any such recommendations. The response received from the OPGA of the 65th session was that it was not felt that any additional resources were needed for the successful conduct of the duties of the OPGA, and so none were requested. Based upon the comments made at the working session, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Controller to determine the more appropriate course of action in anticipation of the upcoming budget exercise which will take place during the 4th quarter of 2012, for the 2014-2015 biennium.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Working methods

There are 13 substantive items on the agenda of the General Assembly, which have traditionally been assigned to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

They are:

1. Effects of atomic radiation;
2. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;
3. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
4. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;
5. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects;
6. Questions relating to information;
7. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations;
8. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;
10. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
11. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;
12. Assistance in mine action; and
13. University for Peace.

Of these, the Committee decided during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly (58/316) that two items should not be considered annually:

- “Assistance in mine action” (considered biennially – last considered at the 66th session); and
- “University for Peace” (considered on a triennial basis – due to be considered at the 67th session).

Further, the five related decolonization items (items 7-11 above) are considered in a clustered manner, whereby a joint general debate is held on the five items, followed by joint action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under these items. A particular practice of the Fourth Committee is the hearing of ‘petitioners’ (individuals or representatives of organizations) speaking on some of the 16 Non-Self-Governing

Territories. The petitioners are heard early in the session. While the number had been increasing in recent years, at the sixty-sixth session, the number of petitioners that made statements was 65, compared to a high of 93 at the previous session.

A kind of clustered approach is taken to the consideration of the UNRWA and 'Israeli practices' items. While there are separate general debates on these items, action is taken on the resolutions submitted under both items at the same meeting.

In order to enhance the interactive nature of the Committee's meetings, at the beginning of the general debates on various items, interactive dialogues with high-level representatives of the Secretariat are held. Under the item "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", a panel discussion has been organized in recent years.

Under the item "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects", an interactive debate and general debate is held during the main session of the General Assembly, whereas consideration of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations takes place in a resumed session in the spring.

At its sixty-sixth session, the Fourth Committee Bureau and the Committee as a whole did consider its methods of work. Following consideration, the Committee did not agree to biennialize or triennialize any of the other items on the Committee's agenda. In this regard, it should be recalled that under a number of the items (items 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 to 9 and 11 above), the Committee considers reports of subsidiary bodies, which themselves meet annually. Also, taking into account that the remaining items on the Committee's agenda are quite discrete, it did not see possibilities for further clustering or elimination of items at this stage.

The Chair made a concerted effort to start meetings on time and keep within the official meeting times and in this way to make the most efficient use of the resources allocated to the Committee.

Based on the experience of previous sessions in utilization of the meetings allocated to the Committee, the Committee decided to reduce the number of meetings for the sixty-seventh session by two to a total of 24 meetings.