

Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India at the Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly on 25 May 2011

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Let me start by placing on record my delegation's happiness at the decision taken by the two Co-Chairs (Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis of Lithuania) to convene this meeting to discuss the subject of "enhancing the functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly including strengthening its institutional memory, and its relationship with the Secretariat."

Co-chairs,

In so far as my delegation is concerned, we view today's discussions as part of an overall package which will result in the revitalization of the General Assembly. This should, *inter alia*, ensure that the sanctity, and the role of this principal organ of the United Nations system is not only preserved but strengthened.

At the outset, permit me to align ourselves with the statement made by our colleague from Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Co-chairs,

We call for augmenting the resources to ensure the efficient and successful functioning of the office of the PGA in keeping with its dignity and prestige. In our mind, providing the resources in terms of protocol and security for the PGA needs to be done forthwith. The relevant provisions of 64/301 should be addressed without any delay.

We also need to find ways and means to institutionalize the existing trust fund established to address the issue of the increasing financial burden associated with the enhanced activities and travel of the PGA. We need to have a sustainable system in place. And the first step in that direction is to have the full facts on the structure and working of this trust fund.

Co-Chairs,

There is a palpable desire among the wide UN membership to have a PGA's office that displays the highest standards of professionalism, neutrality and integrity. We, the member-states should help in this process. There are a number of steps that can be taken in this regard.

First, we need to maintain the fine balance between two factors relevant to the composition of the office of the PGA. On the one hand, we must ensure that the geographical balance of General Assembly membership is reflected in the composition of the Cabinet of the President of the General Assembly. On the other hand, we must apply this principle in synergy with a merit based system that helps assemble the most effective team.

Second, a certain degree of continuity between the incoming and outgoing Presidents and their Cabinets is necessary. There are many ways to do this, but we believe that the two Presidents are the best judges of how to go about the same.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, let me reiterate my delegation's basic position that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected in letter and in spirit. We will continue to support your work in the future to ensure the success of our common endeavour to revitalize the General Assembly.

Thank you.

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