

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,  
AT THE JOINT DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 117: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS & AGENDA ITEM 118: REVITALIZATION OF  
THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 6 DECEMBER 2010

Mr. President,

I am honoured to address the General Assembly on behalf of India at today's joint debate. We believe that the issue of General Assembly revitalization has assumed particular significance in recent years.

My delegation was therefore encouraged by the theme chosen by the President of the General Assembly, Dr. Joseph Deiss for the general debate of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in September this year, namely, "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance" for which we would like to place on record our appreciation. We also welcome his personal attention to matters of badly needed institutional reforms, in particular reform of the Security Council and revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

The starting point of my delegation's position on the issue of General Assembly revitalization is the firm belief 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 both in letter and in spirit.

The General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. This was the role intended for the Assembly in Article 10 of the UN Charter, namely that it discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter, i.e. the Security Council, the ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, the ICJ as well as the Secretariat.

Mr. President,

My delegation participated actively in the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on General Assembly revitalization in the 64<sup>th</sup> session. We provided a number of inputs at the meetings held during the last session. These inputs were provided in a spirit of constructive engagement and we are pleased that these were taken on board in the negotiations leading to the adoption of Resolution 64/301.

I am happy to place on record our appreciation for the good work done by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group last year, Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia and Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina. Equally, I would like to place on record my

delegation's appreciation for the work done by the Algerian delegation as the NAM Chair on this issue as well as for the other negotiating partners who worked in a spirit of cooperation.

While we are generally happy that Resolution 64/301 has been able to highlight some of the important steps required on our collective journey towards a revitalized General Assembly, we firmly believe, Mr. President, that we have some distance to travel.

Mr. President,

Let me place on record my delegation's resolve to continue to actively participate in the deliberations on this issue in the current session. We are enthused by the fact that you have chosen two outstanding and distinguished colleagues of mine, H.E. Mr. Camillo Gonsalves, the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and H.E. Mr. Dalius Cekoulis, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to Co-Chair this year's Ad Hoc Working Group. They can count on the Indian delegation as they go about their important task.

Mr. President,

Without prejudging the proceedings of the Ad Hoc Working Group that should start soon, I would like to place on record the Indian delegation's considered views on some of the important aspects of issue of General Assembly Revitalization.

First of all, it is critical that we establish a proper relationship of respect for respective mandates between the General Assembly and the Security Council in the spirit of the Charter. In this it is particularly important that the Council not encroach upon the mandate of the General Assembly through extremely wide and permissive interpretations of what constitutes a threat to international peace and security, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression and to the situations under which it can take action under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

As we prepare to join the Security Council, after a gap of 19 years, it is clear that the Council's agenda is, to say the least, overburdened because it has anointed itself with the responsibility of dealing with issues, though seemingly important, which leave it with less time to deal with the real hotspots that constitute the real threats to international peace and security. The balance between the General Assembly and the Council is only one of the dimensions of what needs to be addressed. We propose to raise these issues in the Ad Hoc Working Group.

The Assembly must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General. The continued circumscribing of the Assembly's role and responsibilities in the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General needs to change in the interests of the United Nations system in general and the Assembly's prerogatives in particular. And, as it was the General Assembly which limited its own role, it will have to

be the General Assembly that claws back its rightful place in the process of selecting the Secretary-General.

The Assembly and the other entities that form part of the UN system must reflect diplomatic best practices in its day to day functioning. And it has a lot to learn from member-states in this regard.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me re-emphasise the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, legislative and policy-making and representative body of the international community.

The General Assembly can expect India's constructive support and participation in these efforts.

Thank You.

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