

**Statement
by
Ambassador K. Nagaraj Naidu, Deputy Permanent Representative
at the
Informal Meeting
with former Presidents of the General Assembly on
“Revitalization of the United Nations
in favor of a strengthened multilateral rules-based system”**

4 February 2019

Madam President,

I would like to express the sincere gratitude of my delegation to you for convening this informal meeting on the important issue of the Revitalization of the United Nations and strengthening of the multilateral rules-based system.

I also take this opportunity to thank you for your historic initiative in inviting an exemplary line up of former Presidents of the General Assembly and the assembled dignitaries for their insightful observations.

Madam President,

The General Assembly is the closest institution to a global parliament by virtue of being the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.

Its primacy flows from the universality of its membership and the principle of sovereign equality of all its members.

No other global institution can match its representative character and the credibility that it derives from such representativeness.

The General Assembly has demonstrated time and again that it is fully capable of providing leadership for global agenda-setting in dealing with complex global challenges. **These range from global efforts in dealing with sustainable development to universal health coverage to migration.**

The General Assembly, which includes a significant number of environmentally vulnerable countries, is uniquely placed to accelerate efforts for Environment and Climate Action.

Not to forget, the reform of the Security Council is central to the overall process of revitalizing the United Nations and there is no better platform than the GA where this process can be driven in the most democratic and representative manner.

Madam President

Today multilateralism is coming under sever strain because of multiple developments.

Global challenges cutting across boundaries and regions cannot be addressed in isolation.

The General Assembly, with its broadest possible participation and ownership in decision-making, must lead the multilateral effort.

Madam President,

We must continue to focus on specifics while discussing this broad subject of revitalizing the UN. In this context, I would also like to mention the following 3 points:

- i. We need to restore the sanctity of the annual General Debate. Multiple high-level events running parallel to the annual General Debate undermines importance of this most important event on the UN calendar.
- ii. We need to ensure that the General Assembly is well attended during the annual general debate when global leaders congregate at the UN. Images of world leaders addressing a General Assembly with empty seats does not send a positive signal.
- iii. The office of the President of General Assembly must be adequately funded. It should not be left to the individual PGAs to raise funds for discharging their activities.

Madam President,

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations will be celebrated in less than two years from now.

We must take advantage of this significant milestone in our collective quest for a revitalized General Assembly which is capable of addressing global challenges, shaping peoples' aspirations and transforming lives across the world.

The General Assembly has been bold in the past and by being bold about the future will it be seen as revitalized and relevant.

Madam President,

You can count on my delegation's constructive support and participation in the upcoming deliberations of the General Assembly.

I thank you.