

**Ad-hoc Working Group
Revitalization of the UN General Assembly**

**4th Thematic Debate
Strengthening the accountability, transparency and
institutional memory of the Office of the
President of the General Assembly**

INDIA STATEMENT

**By
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Counsellor**

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Distinguished Co-chairs,

Thank you for convening this meeting.

Strengthening the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly is an integral part of the process of revitalization of the General Assembly.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Group.

Co-chairs,

The primacy of the General Assembly flows from the universality of its membership and the principle of sovereign equality of all its members.

The success of the United Nations and multilateralism depends, in large measure, on the effectiveness of the General Assembly in addressing issues and challenges of global importance.

As its presiding officer, the President of the UN General Assembly has an important role to play in setting its agenda and shaping the outcome of the General Assembly session every year.

Co-chairs,

It is widely acknowledged that over the years the workload of the President of the General Assembly has expanded simultaneously with the expansion in the work and programme of the General Assembly.

However, it is well-known that the funds and resources allocated to the office of the PGA are not enough to meet the requirement of its office. It is, therefore, important that for its effective and efficient functioning, the PGA's office is provided with the necessary financial and human resources in an institutionalized manner.

It is in recognition of this need that India contributes annually to the PGA's Trust Fund.

Co-chairs,

The office of the PGA is a repository of immense information related to the work of the General Assembly. The progress achieved by various ongoing negotiation and dialogue processes and working groups of the General Assembly during each session of the UNGA needs to be professionally documented and archived. This is necessary for the purpose of references and for the benefit of subsequent sessions to build upon them.

My delegation, therefore, fully supports the idea of providing necessary institutional and secretarial support to PGA's office to ensure documentation and record keeping of the progress and outcomes of various negotiation and dialogue processes every year. This will ensure continuity, enable incoming PGAs to effectively lead such negotiation processes and also help member states to adequately prepare for them.

Co-chairs,

Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit of India had the distinction of being the first woman to serve as the President of the UN General Assembly way back in 1953.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the current PGA is also a woman.

However, what we need to collectively reflect upon is the fact that there have been only 4 women PGAs in 73 years of the United Nations.

Co-chairs,

The General Assembly must continue to lead in setting the global agenda and in restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. One of the ways of ensuring this is through an effective, efficient and accountable office of the President of the General Assembly.

Co-chairs,

We sincerely hope that the debate this session, as in the previous session, will yield concrete results to carry forward the process of revitalization of the General Assembly.

My delegation will continue to play an active and constructive role in these deliberations.

I thank you.