

**Statement by  
Ambassador K. Nagaraj Naidu  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
On  
Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly**

**28 February 2019**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

I thank you for convening this meeting.

I take this opportunity to congratulate both of you, the distinguished PRs of Jordan and Slovakia, on your appointment as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly and wish you success in your endeavours.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work by the PRs of Croatia and Colombia, the co-chairs during the previous 72nd Session.

I also thank the President of the General Assembly for her insightful remarks and her commitment for a revitalized General Assembly.

**Co-chairs,**

India aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The primacy of General Assembly 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.

While discussing the revitalization of the General Assembly, it is imperative not to lose sight of the rich legacy of the General Assembly in providing leadership for global agenda-setting, while dealing with complex challenges.

It is worth recalling that the very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1946 dealt with a major issue of the day i.e., establishment of a commission to deal with the problem raised by the discovery of atomic energy.

Since that formative period, the General Assembly can count many agenda-setting achievements on issues ranging from sustainable development, to climate change, to oceans, to global health, to migration.

**Co-chairs,**

It is widely acknowledged that the 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 is best suited to find solutions to common global challenges.

However, it is also evident to us that multilateralism is coming under severe strain because of multiple developments. In such a scenario, the General Assembly must regain its leadership role. The success of the United Nations and multilateralism depends on the effectiveness of the General Assembly in finding solutions to global challenges and meeting the aspirations of the people.

**Co-chairs,**

The revitalization of the General Assembly must also be seen in the wider context of the overall reform of the United Nations, including the reform of the Security Council, which the General Assembly has been struggling to adopt for last 25 years.

The urgent and comprehensive UN reform is imperative to make it reflective of current geopolitical realities and to enhance its credibility and capability in addressing the increasingly complex and pressing transnational challenges of our times.

**Co-chairs,**

The revitalization process has brought about some tangible results in the last few years. Some of these results are related to the selection of Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, improvement in the election process, multilingual journal and better coordination between the missions and the secretariat, among others.

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.

**Co-chairs,**

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.

**Co-chairs,**

The General Assembly must lead in setting the global agenda and in restoring the centrality of the UN in formulating multilateral approaches for addressing the existing and emerging global challenges.

Multilateralism is the only way forward and its success depends on the ability of the General Assembly to provide leadership in finding solutions to complex challenges of our day.

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

I thank you.

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