

**Ad Hoc Working Group on the  
Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly**

**First Thematic Meeting  
On the Role and Authority of the General Assembly**

**Statement by  
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Deputy Permanent Representative**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber**

**19 March 2019**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs**

Thank you for convening this important thematic meeting to discuss the role and authority of the General Assembly.

I congratulate you once again on your appointment as co-facilitators. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the previous Co-Chairs from Colombia and Croatia for their significant efforts to guide the Working Group during the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly.

I would also like to acknowledge the leadership and commitment of the President of the General Assembly Amb. María Fernanda Espinosa in providing impetus to the work of the revitalization of the General Assembly.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement.

**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 ownership of Assembly's deliberations and decisions are reflected in the

widest possible participation of the full membership of the UN which is unmatched by any other organ.

The growing number of complex challenges facing the world, such as those related to peace and security, climate change, sustainable development that cut across boundaries and regions, can be addressed only through a genuine multilateral and participative process.

The General Assembly, which is the closest institution to a world parliament, must take the lead in setting the global agenda and in restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. The revitalization process must also restore the primacy of the UN in development matters.

### **Co-Chairs**

It is important that the main organs of the United Nations work in synergy with one another while fully respecting their respective mandates given by the UN Charter.

There is, however, a general feeling that the prerogatives and authority of the General Assembly have been progressively undermined by the Security Council through its frequent attempts to redefine its scope of competence through wider and permissive interpretations of what constitutes a threat to international peace and security and by engaging in discussions on issues that clearly fall within the purview of the General Assembly.

A part of the blame for this situation must also be taken by the General Assembly and its member states for focusing on procedures rather than addressing the substantive issues.

### **Co-Chairs**

The General Assembly must be in the vanguard of global agenda-setting and lead the multilateral process for finding solutions to the challenges faced by the world. The political will and commitment of member states are required to reinforce the role and authority of the Assembly as mandated by the UN Charter.

A revitalized General Assembly must focus on substantive deliberations rather than spending considerable time and resources on procedural issues.

The celebration of 75 years of the United Nations in two years' time should galvanize us all towards strengthening the multilateral system by restoring the leadership role of the General Assembly on issues of global importance.

### **Co-Chairs**

The General Assembly has demonstrated time and again that it is fully capable of providing leadership for global agenda-setting in dealing with complex challenges. These range from sustainable development to climate change to oceans to global health to migration. All these count as among the recent successes of multilateralism.

I am confident that under your guidance, we will be able to achieve concrete progress this year on the revitalization of the General Assembly.

My delegation will continue to give constructive support in your efforts to further the goal of this working group.

Thank you.

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