

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

Thematic Debate on Working Methods

**Statement by
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First Secretary**

United Nations General Assembly

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Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Thank you for convening the second meeting of this Ad-hoc Working Group to discuss the working methods of the General Assembly.

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

Co-Chairs,

The quality of Working Methods is integral to the efficiency and effectiveness of any organization. These need to evolve with time and reflect the necessities of changing circumstances and realities.

Identifying gaps and implementing improvements in the Working Methods of the General Assembly are an important part of our efforts towards its revitalization.

Any attempt to improve the working methods should keep in mind that the objective of such changes should be to enhance the role of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations.

Co-Chairs,

The essence of the General Assembly is in its intergovernmental nature. It is the closest thing to a global parliament. The success of multilateralism depends on the success and effectiveness of the General Assembly to address the growing number of challenges facing the world which cut across national boundaries and regions.

The deliberations in the GA should be inclusive, allowing every member state to take part equally in it. At the same time the member states should engage in substantive deliberations in the six main committees that could result in setting new norms without being bogged down by procedural issues.

Co-Chairs,

It is widely acknowledged that the agenda of the General Assembly has expanded exponentially over the years. It is important that the GA agenda is made more manageable so that the discussions become more informed and effective. However, any streamlining of the agenda of the General Assembly, including that of biennialization, triennialization or elimination of agenda items, should be with the consent of the co-sponsoring State or States.

Co-Chairs,

The General Assembly and the other entities that form part of the UN system must reflect best practices in its day to day functioning. The General Assembly must benefit from the best practices prevalent in the countries of member states.

The GA Revitalization process has yielded fruitful results in recent years which has improved the way elections are held at the UN. However, there is room for further improvement as elections which spread over multiple rounds take several hours and become tedious. Modern technologies can help us save the precious time of the General Assembly.

In this regard, it may be useful to task the Secretariat to conduct a time bound analysis of the current electoral practices, identify gaps and problems, explore other solutions including technologically advanced electronic voting systems and recommend specific suggestions for improvements.

Co-Chairs,

With the proliferation of the agenda of the General Assembly, the Annual General Debate is gradually turning out to be one of the several high-level events that take place at the start of each new session of the General Assembly.

The Annual General Debate has a special place in the annual agenda of the UN and we should not let it be equated with various high-level events which do not enjoy the participation of all member states. My delegation is of the view that for the revitalization of the General Assembly, the sanctity of the Annual General Debate and its associated elements must be restored.

Co-chairs,

The success of the United Nations rests on the effectiveness of the General Assembly to carry out its role as its chief deliberative and policy-making body as envisaged in the UN Charter.

Let me assure you of my delegation's continued support in your efforts to further the goal of revitalizing this Assembly.

Thank you.