

ALGERIA



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria
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بعثة الجزائر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

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Statement of

H.E. Mr. Mourad BENMEHIDI

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on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement

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

New York, 27 March 2012

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Co-Chairs,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, allow me to express the gratitude of the members of the NAM to H.E. Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and H.E. Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania, for their tireless efforts and excellent work in co-chairing the Ad-Hoc working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly during the sixty-fifth session.

The Non Aligned Movement congratulates H.E. Mrs. Susan Waffaa-Ogoo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Gambia, and H.E. Ambassador Alexander Lomaia, Permanent Representative of Georgia upon their appointment as Co-facilitators for the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Revitalization of the General Assembly during the Sixty-sixth session.

The NAM would like to express its appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for the importance he attaches to enhance the authority of the General Assembly by including this matter among the main priorities of his mandate during the current session.

Indeed, the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the comprehensive reform of the United Nations, and its objectives should continue to strengthen the role and position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the Organization, bearing in mind that the improvement of its procedural and working methods is only a first step towards a more substantive improvements and revitalization of the Assembly; and to restore and enhance its role and authority.

A reinvigorated General Assembly, in a more responsive environment, exerting fully its role and authority would significantly contribute to the strengthening of the wider United Nations system, to the improvement of the international governance and enhancement of multilateralism.

Co-Chairs,

Let me turn on to the main issues that the NAM attaches primary importance during this session of the Ad hoc Working Group.

A thorough evaluation of the status of implementation of General Assembly resolutions and a clear identification of the underlining causes behind any lack of implementation are of utmost importance in order to progressively eliminate the constraints which still prevent the process of Revitalization of the General Assembly from putting forward all its potential.

In this regard, the Group recalls the decision taken in paragraph 3 of the resolution A/RES/65/315, to continue the process of the comprehensive review of the inventory on the status of implementation of the resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly, and the request to the Secretary General to submit an update on the related provisions that have not been implemented, with an indication of the reasons behind the lack of implementation. In this regard, I would like to thank the Secretary General for the issuance of the document A/66/730 pursuant to the aforementioned provision.


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Co-Chairs,

We reaffirm the role and authority of the General Assembly, including in questions related to international peace and security, and its inter-governmental, inclusive and democratic character which have immensely contributed to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the goals of the Organization. The Group reaffirms as well the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations as such and draws the attention on the necessity to consult with Members States on the initiatives and activities undertaken within the organization.

The NAM emphasises the need for strict respect by member States of the Charter based prerogatives of the United Nations principal organs, in particular the General Assembly. In this regard, the Movement reiterates its objection to the continuous encroachment by the Security Council on issues which clearly fall under the powers and prerogatives of the General Assembly. Such encroachment has been observed even in areas of norm-setting, legislation, administrative and budgetary matters, and establishing definitions, bearing in mind that the Assembly is primarily tasked with the development and codification of international law in accordance with the article 13 of the UN Charter.

Co-Chairs

It is clear that while the prerogatives of the President of the General Assembly have not changed, his role and his activities have evolved over the past years both in adapting to the growing activities, conferences, and initiatives of the Assembly, performing official protocol functions, representing the Assembly over the world, and making the work of the General Assembly more known and more visible. The Group highlights, therefore, the importance of ensuring the effectiveness of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including through increasing its budget and strengthening its institutional memory 

The NAM reaffirms that, in full compliance with the Article 97 of the Charter, the appointment of Secretary-General should be more transparent and inclusive to all member States that will allow an effective and efficient participation of the General Assembly in its selection and appointment, and stresses on the need to fully implement the provisions of the resolutions 60/286, 64/301 and 65/315 related to this issue.

The Group recalls that the previous resolution 65/315 of the General Assembly on revitalization has encouraged the main committees to discuss their working methods during the current session and to brief our Ad Hoc Working Group on this issue. In this connection, the NAM reiterates the intergovernmental and inclusive nature of these discussions on working methods, in consultation with all the delegations.

Co-chairs

With regard to the organization of our work during this session, We are of the view that, as for last year, separate meetings should be devoted to each of the four issues on the agenda of the Ad Hoc Working Group. It is our hope that this focused approach will lead to better interactive discussion on the revitalization of the General Assembly.

Furthermore, we would like to have a clear picture on our work programme for the coming months. Our aim should be to achieve concrete results and real progress, as far as possible, by the end of June, during the current session.

In conclusion, the NAM underlines the need to address this important issue in a comprehensive and transparent manner through the widest consultation of member States in order to ensure an effective implementation of all decisions and outcome of our deliberations, the Movement reaffirms its willingness to contribute effectively and constructively to the activities of the Working Group for the identification of ways and means to strengthen the role and authority of the General Assembly.

The NAM is ready to cooperate and to engage with other delegations in fruitful and constructive discussions, in a comprehensive, thorough and transparent manner on this agenda Item.

I thank you.