

ALGERIA



الجزائر

Permanent Mission of Algeria  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

*66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations*

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

*Statement delivered by Mr. Larbi DJACIA*

*Counsellor*

*on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement*

*Thematic Debate: "Enhancing functions of the Office of the President of the  
General Assembly including Strengthening its institutional memory, and its  
relationship with the Secretariat".*

---

*New York, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012.*

#### Co-Chairs

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

1- At the outset, I would like to express our thanks to you Co-Chairs for convening this meeting which is dedicated to the topic of enhancement of functions of the Office of the President of General Assembly, including strengthening its institutional memory.

2- The NAM reaffirms the great importance it attaches to the strengthening of the office of the President of the General Assembly as called for by previous resolutions of the General Assembly and as an endeavor to allocate this organ with the necessary means in order to allow him to play the role that the General Assembly has been entrusted with by the United Nations Charter.

#### Co-Chairs

3- It is clear that while the prerogatives of the PGA 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 General Assembly, performing official protocol functions, representing the Assembly over the world and making its work more known and more visible.

4-Therefore, the expansion of activities of the General Assembly including the yearly adoption of more than 300 resolutions and decisions, the establishment of Working groups and facilitations that convene meetings and consultations all over the year, have made the presence of the President and its active participation necessary during the whole session.

5-The presence of the PGA in New York during the entire session, together with growing expenses for travel and attendance of numerous conferences and international events where the PGA is invited poses a financial burden that needs to be met every year. A part from the Trust Fund established to support part of these financial charges, and the voluntary contributions of some Member States, many expenses are taken in charge by the country of origin of the President. This put an extra burden on many countries with limited resources which cannot afford such means, thus creating the risk of inequality of Member States when considering candidature for the post of PGA.

#### Co-Chairs

6- The Non Aligned Movement notes with concern that while the budget of the Organization have more than tripled from 1998 to 2012 the budget of the PGA office has remained unchanged. Few things could be carried out with the amount allocated.

7- The successive PGA's have heavily relayed on voluntary contributions of governments including their own governments to meet the financial requirements for the office and even for mandated activities. In this regard, the NAM would like to seek clarifications from the Secretariat on the current status of the Trust Fund.

8- The Non-Aligned Movement expresses concern on the no implementation of the provisions of the resolutions 64/301 and 65/315 requesting the Secretary-General to submit proposals to review the budget allocation to the Office of the PGA, and would like, in this regard, to receive from the Secretariat more clarifications.

#### Co-Chairs

9- The NAM is of the view that the report submitted by the PGA, during the 64<sup>th</sup> session, to the ad hoc working group, as requested by the resolution 63/309, remains valid and relevant for the current session and for the upcoming ones. This would help to identify ways and means in order to enhance functions of the Office of the PGA and to strengthen its institutional memory, including through increasing its budget.

10- The NAM notes that this report helps Member States to get a clear picture on the conditions where the Office of the PGA and the PGA himself are discharging their duties in support of the Work of the General Assembly, and in representing the Assembly both here in the United Nations and over the world.

11- With regard of the issue of expenses related to the security of the PGA taken in charge by the budget of the Department of Safety and Security, whether it is in support of the official function of the President here in New York or during his or her official travels abroad, this put an extra burden on already limited resources of the Office. Similarly, the Movement stresses the importance of strict implementation by the Secretariat of provisions of resolutions of the General Assembly related to the assignment of a spokesman and an assistant spokesman of the President.

12- It should be noticed that through previous resolutions on the Revitalization, the General Assembly has decided to make available to the Office of the PGA additional means to address the continuous challenge of the lack of sufficient resources. In this regard, the



NAM notes with concern, the fact that the inventory on the status of implementation of the resolutions on the revitalization of the General Assembly (A/63/959) has mentioned that the support for the PGA is being provided to a limited extent, because various technical, logistical, protocol and financial questions need to be clarified.

13- Hence, and according to the paragraph 26 of the resolution 65/315, the NAM requests that the Secretariat provides the Ad Hoc Working Group with a more detailed analysis and evaluation of the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly, including resolutions 59/313, 60/286 and 64/301.

#### Co-Chairs

14- The NAM underlines, as well, the need of assignment of additional posts on a permanent basis. While assuring United Nations reliable and available staff for discharging the functions of the Office, this would not impede future President from getting extra support from countries including his own or her own country, as this is the case currently. In doing so, and given the representative and plenary nature of the General Assembly, the office staff should reflect diversity a geographical balance and the diversity of regions and groups of Members States, in terms of number and level of responsibility.

15- The NAM requests the allocation of adequate space in the current temporary North Lawn Building, and, in particular, in the renovated permanent Headquarter of the Organization. Indeed, it is important that as from now a necessary number of offices and other related space for the Office of the PGA be identified thus allowing the President and his staff to work in normal conditions as this is the case for other officials and departments of the Organization.

16- The NAM attaches great importance to ensure successful annual transitions between PGA's and requests outgoing Presidents to brief their successors on the lessons learned and best practices.

17- With regard to the voting and balloting system, i would like to thank the Secretariat for the briefing and to reiterate the NAM position that supports, as a matter of principle, any technical improvement that will provide support to the work of the General Assembly, by making it more efficient and more secured. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement has from the beginning welcomed the proposal to introduce a technically more advanced system for both voting and balloting.

18- During previous sessions, presentations were received by the Ad Hoc Working Group, on a potential voting and balloting systems, for consideration by Member States. It appeared that neither of the systems presented meet the requirements of reliability, credibility, integrity and confidentiality.

19- Consequently, no formal decision has been taken in this regard by the plenary of the General Assembly. Accordingly, the development of electronic devices related to the voting and balloting systems within the framework of the Capital Master Plan could not be invoked in itself to urge Member States to adopt these systems.

Co-Chairs,

20- Finally, the Non Aligned Movement expresses once more its support for an effective and genuine strengthening of the memory of Office of the General Assembly as well as for the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources the regular budget of the United Nations. In this regard the Movement reiterates its request, mentioned above, for an increase in the regular budget allocated to the Office in order to much at least the evolution of the general budget of the Organization. This should be the commencement of a regular and sustained effort aiming at making available for the PGA the necessary resources from the assessed budget, and enabling all Presidents of the General Assembly to perform in the same conditions.

21- The NAM expresses its readiness to continue to support all ongoing efforts to strengthen the central role and authority of the Assembly, congratulates the Facilitators for all the efforts extended since the first meeting held in March to organize the thematic debates, and reiterates its willingness to ensure, with the two co-chairs and other delegations and group of delegations, a successful session for the Ad Hoc Working Group.

I thank you.