

ALGERIA



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

Statement delivered by Mr. Farid DAHMANE

First Secretary

on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement

*Thematic Debate : Role and responsibility of the General Assembly
in the appointment and selection of the Secretary General*

New York, 10 May 2012.

Co-Chairs

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

At the outset, I would like to express our thanks to you Co-Chairs for convening this meeting which is devoted specifically to the Role and responsibility of the General Assembly in the process of selecting and appointing Secretaries-General of the United Nations.

In this regard, the Resolutions of the General Assembly related to this topic and the inventory on the status of their implementation, (Document A/63/959) will constitute the basis of our discussions, as well as, the Joint Inspection Unit report, JIU/ REP/2009/8, on the selection and conditions of service of executive Heads in the United Nations system, which is a very pertinent and useful reference for this thematic debate.

Co-Chairs

Among other prerogatives and mandates of the General Assembly the selection and appointment of Secretaries-General of the United Nations is of utmost importance. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement recalls the Article 97 of the United Nations Charter in accordance to which the Secretary General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council, and stresses on this basis the need for the selection and the appointment of the Secretary-General to be more transparent, credible and inclusive to all member states, by making full use of the power of appointment enshrined in the Charter.

The NAM emphasizes, therefore, the necessity that the participation of the General Assembly to the selection and the appointment of the Secretary General should be more active, effective and efficient, in accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 51/241, 60/286, 64/301 and 65/315.

In fact, it became clear that the Security Council (and particularly the permanent members), has assumed too large powers in this matter over the years, and encroaches therefore on the role of the General Assembly concerning this matter. This is due, to a certain extent to the interpretation made of Article 97 of the Charter, by the outdated Resolution 11 (I) of 1946, in favor of the Security Council.

In this regard, the NAM underlines that the Resolution 11 (I) is completed and partly amended by the provisions of the aforementioned resolutions related to the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General.

Co-Chairs

The NAM is of the view that, in full compliance with the article 97 of the Charter, one of the convenient steps in order to strengthen the role of the General Assembly is to encourage the President of the General Assembly to consult with Member States in order to identify and to endorse candidates to the post of Secretary-general. The outcome of the consultations, including a possible endorsement of candidates, would then be forwarded to the Security Council.

Furthermore, a formal presentation before the General Assembly of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General will undoubtedly allow for an effective and useful interaction with Member States. The President of the General Assembly could, for that purpose, convene hearings / meetings of the General Assembly for an exchange of views and dialogue with all candidates. As it was mentioned by the aforementioned JIU report in its first recommendation, such hearings / meetings will enhance transparency and credibility of the selection process and will make it more inclusive of all Member States.

The NAM emphasizes the need for more specific timelines for the selection process and encourages formal presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States.

Co-Chairs

While strongly expressing the importance that the relevant provisions of Resolutions 51/241 and 60/286 should be fully applied to the forthcoming process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General, the Non-Aligned Movement has noticed with regret that most of these provisions have not been implemented yet. This appears clearly from the inventory on the status of implementation of the resolutions related to the revitalization, and from the decision taken by the General Assembly in the paragraph 14 of the last year's Resolution 64/301, reiterating the paragraphs of the annex of resolution 60/286 regarding this matter.

Finally, the Non-Aligned Movement stresses the need of full implementation of the General Assembly resolutions related to the process of selecting and appointing Secretaries-General of the United Nations. Moreover the Movement acknowledges the recommendations of the report of JIU (JIU/REP/2009/8) which noted that conducting hearings/meetings with candidates running for posts of executive heads of the Organizations of the United Nations common system could improve their selection process, in order to enhance transparency and credibility of the selection process and to make this latter more inclusive of all nationalities.

I thank you.

