

Co--Chairs

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

At the outset, let me on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement congratulate you upon your appointment as co-facilitators for the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Revitalization of the General Assembly during the sixty-fifth session.

The Non Aligned Movement reiterates the validity and relevance of its principled position with regard to the revitalization of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations and its position in the wider UN system. This process is of a political nature with the principal aim of strengthening the role of the General Assembly in line with its mandate assigned to it by the UN Charter.

The NAM emphasizes 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.

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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 NAM attaches great importance to the process of the comprehensive review of the inventory on the status of implementation of the resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly, as requested by the paragraph 3 of the resolution 64/301, and wishes to have thorough information on how the co-chairs intend to conduct this task.

The NAM emphasizes the need for strict respect by member States of the Charter based prerogatives of the UN principal organs, in particular the General Assembly. In this regard, the Movement is deeply concerned of and 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 article 13 of the UN Charter.

The role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions related to the international peace and security, which have immensely contributed to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter goals of the Organization, must be respected.

The NAM while expressing its readiness to continue to support all ongoing efforts to strengthen the central role and authority of the General Assembly, wishes to state that it will oppose any approach that seeks to undermine or minimize the achievements of the General Assembly, diminish its current role and functioning or raise questions about its relevance and credibility.

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The Non-Aligned Movement recalls, that the resolution 64/301 requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the effectiveness of the office of the President of the General Assembly, including through increasing its budget and strengthening of its institutional memory.

While noting with appreciation the progress already achieved in this regard, we are of the view that a particular effort should be devoted to the implementation of the already existing resolutions on this matter as well as identifying, during the upcoming discussions of the Working group, ways and means to pursue progressively and with determination this objective.

The General Assembly should maintain its role and mandate in setting the priorities of the United Nations in considering all budgetary and administrative issues and reforms, including its absolute authority to allocate and reallocate financial and human resources, and in the appointment of senior officials in the Secretariat, in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly

resolutions. In this regard, prerogatives of the General Assembly, as the chief oversight organ of the Organization, including on management and procurement for Peacekeeping Operations, must be respected.

The NAM recalls in this connection the report JIU/REP/2009/8 of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), related to the selection and conditions of service of executive Heads in the United Nations System Organizations, and emphasizes the importance of full implementation of its recommendations.

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The NAM reaffirms the need for the selection of Secretary-General to be more transparent and inclusive to all member States that will allow an effective and efficient participation of the General Assembly in the selection and the appointment of the Secretary-general in conformity with the UN Charter, and stresses on the need to fully implement the provisions of the resolutions 60/286 and 64/301, related to this issue.

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 General Assembly to consult with Member States in order to identify and to endorse candidates. 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 a meeting of the General Assembly for an exchange of views and dialogue with all candidates. The outcome of the consultations, including a possible endorsement of candidates, would then be forwarded to the Security Council.

The NAM is aware also, that this mechanism, when implemented, will require a transitional period and might not be applicable to the immediate next process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General.

All these issues are of great importance and the NAM likes to state from the outset that its preference is to see that the Ad Hoc Working Group will devote, to each one of these important items enough time of discussion. The NAM does not object, in this case, to address more than one topic during the same meeting provided that each subject could be discussed separately, and 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.

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In conclusion, the NAM reaffirms that 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.

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.