

Mr. President

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 NAM congratulates H.E. Ambassador Ombeni Y. Sefue, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, 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-fifth session.

The Non Aligned Movement reiterates the importance of the Revitalization of the General Assembly and the validity and relevance of its principled position with regard to this process. The Movement underlines that the Revitalization process is of political nature aiming mainly to strengthening the role 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. It should therefore be conducted in an inclusive, transparent and efficient manner.

The NAM welcomes the adoption of the resolution A/65/315, last September, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, established the Working Group to discuss during the 66th session the issues related to the Revitalization of the General Assembly and to continue, in particular, the assessment of the status of implementation of its previous resolutions on this matter. In this regard 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 resumption of the evaluation of the status of implementation of General Assembly resolutions undertaken last session 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.

Mr. President

The NAM emphasizes the need to fully respect the functions and powers of each principal organ of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and to maintain the balance among these organs within their respective Charter-based functions and powers. In this regard, the Security Council must fully observe all Charter provisions as well as all General Assembly resolutions which clarify its relationship with the latter organ and other principal organs.

The NAM expresses again its concern, raised during previous sessions, with regard to the continuous attempt from the Security Council to encroach on powers and prerogatives of the General Assembly. Article 24 of the Charter does not provide the Security Council with the competence to address issues which fall within the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC.

In the same vein, the NAM calls the Security Council to submit a more explanatory, comprehensive and analytical annual report to the General Assembly assessing the work of the Council.

Mr. President

The United Nations General Assembly, as the policy making organ of the Organization, holds the authority and the essential role of drawing the framework, setting the principles and identifying the objectives for the wider United Nations system and its numerous organs, agencies and Programs. Furthermore, the General Assembly should remain the principal organ that reviews the work of all its subsidiary organs and bodies.

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, while expressing its readiness to continue to support all ongoing efforts to strengthen the central role and authority of the 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.

Mr. President

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, in representing the Assembly over the world, and making the work of the General Assembly more known and more visible.

Therefore, the activities of the office of the PGA have increased drastically over the years. The agenda of the Assembly and consequently that of its President include a tremendous number of issues. 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, has made the presence of the President and its active participation necessary during the whole session. The workload of the General Assembly is no longer limited to its main session but rather covering the whole period from opening of the session in September to its closing. This increasing and tremendous activity should of course be matched with the necessary resources both human and financial.

The Movement recalls, in this regard, that the resolution 65/315 and 64/301 requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, and is looking forward to that proposals of the Secretariat and to the debate of the Fifth Committee, to be held during the current session, 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 PGA, including through the 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.

Mr. President

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, I would like to congratulate Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on his re-election for a second term and for the work done during his first mandate.

As for future Secretary General mandates, the NAM reaffirms the need for the selection of Secretary-General to be more transparent and inclusive to all member States and 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 conformity with the UN Charter, and in accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 51/241, 60/286, 64/301 and 65/315.

The NAM stresses, in this regard, the importance of the full implementation of the aforementioned resolutions to the immediate next process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General.

Mr. President

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 and 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.