



الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations
New York

الدائمة الجزائرية البعثة
المتحدة الأمم لدى
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**74th session of the General Assembly
of the United Nations**

DRAFT

**37th plenary meeting/
Joint Debate**

**Revitalization of the Work
of the General Assembly
[item 121]**

**Statement of H.E. Sofiane MIMOUNI,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
On behalf of the Non Aligned Movement**

New York, 08 November 2019

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, one of the largest cross-regional groups, consisting of 120 Member States.

At the outset, allow me to express that all protocol and ceremonial including appreciation to the co-Chairs and President of the General Assembly, are respected.

We reiterate that revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the comprehensive reform of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

A reinvigorated General Assembly would significantly contribute to the strengthening of the wider United Nations system, to the improvement of the international governance and the enhancement of multilateralism.

A thorough evaluation of the status of implementation of the 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.

We fully adhere to the letter and spirit of the relevant UNGA consensual resolutions in particular resolution 69/321, which are the cornerstones for the ongoing process of the UN reform system.

In this context, we strongly believe that the mobilization of the necessary financial resources is a key issue, especially from the United Nations regular budget.

Mr. President,

During this session we want to underline the following:

Firstly, concerning the process of selection and appointment of the UN Secretary-General

- The appointment of the Secretary-General should continue to be transparent, democratic and inclusive to all Member States that will allow an effective and efficient participation of the General Assembly in its selection and appointment process.
- NAM welcomes the collaboration between the General Assembly and the Security Council in launching the process and circulating information on the nominated candidates during the last selection of the Secretary-General and encourages improvement in the interaction between the Security Council and the General Assembly in all stages of the process to further enhance transparency,
- While welcoming the signing of the joint letter by which the Presidents of the UN General Assembly and Security Council formally launch the beginning of this process, it is the strong understanding of the NAM that at whatever stage of presentation of the candidatures, the new procedure -joint letter of the PGA and President of the SC- will remain the main framework to be strictly implemented in future selection and appointment processes.
- We call on the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council to continue to hold timely informal meetings for an exchange of views with candidates presented by a Member State.

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- In this regard, NAM reiterates the need to provide the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary-General with clear timelines based on its resolution 69/321, including for the publishing of the aforementioned joint letter, containing the submission of candidatures, the completion of the General Assembly hearings with all candidates, and for the Security Council selection process followed by the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the appointment. In this context, NAM calls upon the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council to work, in close consultation with Member States, on these timeframes.
- We strongly believe that in order to ensure a smooth and efficient transition, the Secretary-General should be appointed as early as possible, preferably no later than one month before the date on which the term of the incumbent expires
- We welcome further discussion in Ad-hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, of all the options regarding the duration of appointment and renewability of the term of Office of the Secretary-General,
- NAM would like to highlight that there was a discussion in the Ad Hoc Working Group about the desirability for the Security Council to consider providing a plural number of candidates to the General Assembly for the appointment of the Secretary-General in the future. In this regard, we emphasize the need to continue this rich discussion on the appointment process.
- We encourage further openness during the selection and appointment process of the Secretary General and invite the President of the Security Council to inform, in a timely manner and giving priority to Member States, of the results of straw polls. NAM stresses, once again, that it is in no way the intention of the NAM to call into question the confidentiality of the straw polls process.
- We also calls upon the Joint Inspection Unit to include in its work programme the preparation of analysis and recommendations on the selection and appointment of executive heads and senior managers in the United Nations system.
- Moreover, the NAM would like to emphasize the issue of promises by candidates in exchange for the support of the permanent members of the Security Council, which is described in the JIU Report for 2011.
- We welcome the significant number of women candidates in the last process of selection and appointment of the UN Secretary General and in subsidiary organs of the General Assembly in seeking to promote gender balance and encourage Member States to continue to do so.
- We reiterate that the process of appointment of the Secretary-General by the General Assembly should be carried out in full compliance with the General Assembly mandate. These include the timely tabling of the draft resolution which should be preceded by wide and extensive consultations with all UN Member States, and ensuring the action of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council including by secret ballot, in full and strict conformity with rule 141 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
- Bearing in mind the importance of the best practices and lessons learnt from the last selection and appointment process, NAM is of the view that the Ad Hoc Working Group should consider developing a compendium of those best practices, for future reference.
- NAM *stresses* the need for a broader and timely dissemination to the wider Membership of the positions available at the level of Under-Secretary General and the senior posts. Due regard shall continue to be given to regional and geographical rotation and shall also be given to gender equality as stipulated in paragraph 59 of resolutions 51/241, and in 69/321.

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- NAM encourages steps to improve the selection of executive heads, and enhance its transparency, inclusivity and credibility including by conducting interactive meetings with candidates running for these posts, where applicable.

Secondly, regarding the strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (PGA):

- The NAM finds it encouraging that an oath of Office as well as a Code of Ethics for the President of the General Assembly were adopted for the first time in history.
- The NAM reiterates the need for the assignment of additional posts to the Office of the PGA on a permanent basis. Furthermore, we also appreciate the member States who have provided concrete support to the Office of PGA by seconding staffs from their respective Missions.
- The NAM also attaches great importance to ensuring successful annual transitions between PGA's and supports outgoing Presidents to brief their successors on the lessons learned and best practices.
- The NAM expresses its support for an effective and genuine strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly as well as for the allocation to the Office of sufficient human and financial resources from the United Nations regular budget.

Thirdly, the role and authority of the General Assembly

- The NAM reaffirms the importance of preserving the inter-governmental, inclusive and democratic nature of the United Nations and the need to consult with Member States within the Organization.
- The NAM emphasizes the need for strict respect by Member States of the Charter based prerogatives of the United Nations principal organs, in particular of the General Assembly.
- Furthermore, the NAM supports the initiative aimed at proper implementation of the UN Charter with respect to the functional relationship between its main organs, in particular the GA and the ECOSOC.
- We welcome the establishment within the framework of the Ad hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly a standing mechanism of dialogue between the Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat. We look forward to continuing discussions within this framework.

Fourthly, on the working methods of the General Assembly

- The NAM reaffirms that working methods is only a step towards more substantive improvements aimed at restoring and enhancing the role and authority of the General Assembly.
- We welcome paragraph 58 of resolution 72/313 that takes note with appreciation of the changes to the format, production and editing of the Journal of the United Nations, and that requests the Secretariat to continue with the improvement of the Journal in accordance with requirements provided in paragraph 51 of resolution 71/323 and 31 of resolution 73/341.
- We also welcome the improvement made on communicating the names of candidates for election to the Secretariat, and the decision that the campaign materials in the GA Hall or in the Committee meeting room shall be limited to a single page of information regarding the candidates.
- The NAM recalls that the General Assembly has encouraged the Main Committees to continue consideration and to make proposals on their working methods during the current session. In this

connection, the NAM reiterates the intergovernmental and inclusive nature of these discussions on working methods that have to engage all delegations.

- The last resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly was also adopted by consensus. However, we continue to insist that more flexibility should be the rule for all the UN Member States during the next round of negotiations.
- The Non-aligned Movement calls for appropriate measures to enhance public awareness on the role and activities of the GA and encourages media reporting of its work.
- We welcome paragraph 15 of resolution 73/341 that decides to continue to consider ways to rationalize the number of side events held during the high-level segment of the general debate.
- NAM strongly believe that there is a need to improve strong coordination of the revitalization process with the work of the Committee on Conferences and all Main Committees.
- We should also take a closer look at the arrangements for the process of holding debates in the General Assembly and the Security Council and their follow-up, given the number of participating delegates.
- Furthermore, we propose holding briefings, as necessary, with the Chairs of the Main Committees, as well as a meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations. The NAM also calls for a better monitored implementation of past resolutions.
- Before concluding, we would like to emphasize, NAM support to the draft resolution formally tabled by the Chair of the G77 and China intituled "**Enlargement of the composition of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; amendements of the rule of procedures of the General Assembly**", in line with principles of efficiency and equitable geographical representation.
- We would like to underline that the composition of this body had been reviewed three times (1961, 1971, 1977) in order to correct progressively that situation. The main criterion which had served and continues to serve in order to achieve this objective is the increasing number of Members States in the UN taking into account that since the last decision adopted in 1977, there are 46 Members States which joined the UN.

In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its commitment to keep contributing effectively and constructively to the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. The Non-Aligned Movement hopes for the same approach from other delegations and humbly wishes to recall that it speaks in the name of 120 United Nations Member States.

In addition, the NAM stands ready to cooperate with you, distinguished co-Chairs, with the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, as well as with the Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative policy-making organ. We will continue to provide support towards achieving inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency in the United Nations.

I thank you for your kind attention.