



The
Bahamas

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
BAHAMAS

TO THE PLENARY

ON

AGENDA ITEM (55) REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY; AGENDA ITEM (57) UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND
PROPOSALS; AGENDA ITEM (58) RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS;
AGENDA ITEM (59) STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM:
REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

28TH OCTOBER 2003

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Mr. President,

My delegation is particularly pleased to be participating in this important discussion which impacts on our work here at the United Nations. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the on-going efforts aimed at the revitalization of the organization and its specialized agencies and concurs with the Secretary General's comments on the urgent need for the Organization to determine in which direction it is to go to maximize its benefit to the peoples of the world.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to express its gratitude to you for the proposals before us, namely, **"Enhancing the authority and role of the General Assembly"** and **"Improving the work methods of the General Assembly"**. The Bahamas delegation supports the need for enhancing the capacity of the General Assembly to fulfill its role as envisaged under the UN Charter and the need for enhanced cooperation and effective relationships between the General Assembly and the principal organs of this Organization. This is critical for the overall harmonization and coherence in the implementation of decisions taken by the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

Although we would agree that the General Debate provides an opportunity for member states to espouse their national positions on matters of mutual concern to the General Assembly, the proposal to ensure that the level of representation in the annual General Debate, and special meetings of the General Assembly be at the highest political level, may pose a difficulty to many developing countries who are already hard pressed to provide adequate representation to cover the work of the Main Committees. Developing countries particularly Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, now make the choice to follow those items which are of greatest importance to their countries, as the plethora of agenda items make it almost impossible to be adequately represented in all of the Main Committees. In an effort to alleviate this situation, perhaps it is necessary to expand the time allotted for the work of the General Assembly and allow for work within the Main Committees to be distributed over a longer period rather than the current 3 months from September to December, as has been proposed by a number of delegations in the past. In this connection, The Bahamas delegation would support the further clustering of related items to decrease the time allotted to individual items in the Plenary and the Main Committees. We however, wish to caution, that these emerging clusters should in no way, diminish the importance of development issues as they pertain to the economic and social well-being of the developing countries.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to propose that the role of the Department of Public Information be enhanced to assist in promoting the work of the United Nations, not only within the Organization but even more importantly, in ensuring that the message of the United Nations is effectively disseminated to the peoples of the world. In this age of information technology, every effort should be made to assist developing countries to access information and communications technology which would allow them to become active participants in relevant discussions now, as opposed to later, when the hard copy arrives. This would strengthen our efforts to have decisions made in a timely manner and could lead to further effectiveness and efficiency within the Organization.

Mr. President,

The time has come for a review of all matters on the agenda of the General Assembly to determine their relevance within the context of the existing geopolitical global economy. This may result in biennial consideration of some items while others in their present form, should be removed entirely from the agenda. Mr. President, this pragmatic approach demands that an evaluation of the situation with regards to the agenda items lead directly to a more efficient Organization with clear goals and objectives towards realizing the promises and ideals delineated in the Charter and subsequent declarations, such as those issuing from the Millennium Summit. My delegation recognizes that this is a difficult process however, it is one that with the requisite political will, can achieve the desired goal.

Mr. President,

The Bahamas is committed to ensuring that the integrity of this Organization is preserved and respected. We are committed to the purposes and principles of this Organization. We therefore, want to ensure that the Organization is continuing in its quest to make this place, a world where efforts are made with each passing day, to improve the quality of life for each of its citizens.

I thank you, Mr. President.