

**Ad hoc working group on revitalization
of the General Assembly
Thematic meeting 4**

26 April 2006

Statement

**by Mr. Sergei Rachkov
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

The General Assembly for the last several years made significant steps in reallocating the items among Main Committees. In several cases the reallocation was not proved by practice and items were returned to the place they were before reallocation. It is important to ensure the optimal allocation of items from the beginning and the **General Committee should be more active in the allocating new items.**

The GA efficiency would not be increased if we reduce number or volume of the Secretary-General's reports. To the contrary today we don't have a report on implementation of the GA resolutions 58/126, 58/316 and 59/313 which was requested from the Secretariat but for some reasons was not prepared. This report could facilitate our deliberations and contribute to the strengthening of the Organisation. If Member States set clear criteria for reports and Secretariat prepares them timely and adequately these documents would be very valuable regardless of number of pages in them.

In the World Summit Outcome Document we reaffirmed the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations and its role in standard-setting for the Organisation. That **central role should be fully reflected in the UN Journal.**

In 1993 Belarus as well as other Member States welcomed the decision of the Security Council to announce for the first time its meetings in the UN Journal. This decision was a significant improvement of Security Council working methods and hardly any delegation thought about proper place for the Security Council's announcements in the Journal. So the Secretariat for some reason decided to place these announcements before the events of the General Assembly in the UN Journal.

Belarusian delegation thinks that this situation should be corrected. We suggest that our working group makes recommendation to the General Assembly to be consistent in standard-setting and to **rearrange the items of the UN Journal in order set forth in the UN Charter, Statute of the International Court of Justice and all other official documents of the Organisation.**

Besides of the legal considerations there are compelling practical reasons for the rearrangement.

The main function of the UN Journal is to inform interested delegations on the place, time and agenda of the official UN meetings. And we need **to ensure that the information on the meetings of the General Assembly would be brought to the attention of all its 191 Members.** The risk that some of 15 Members of the Security Council would miss the information on its meetings is significantly lower regardless of the page of the Journal where the announcement is published.

The UN Journal is published by the Secretariat but the General Assembly is **the body which decides all issues regarding the substance of the Journal, inclusion of new items, its languages etc.** Other UN organs do not participate in the management of the Journal they just publish the information on their meetings.

The **rearrangement in the UN Journal is legally grounded and practical.** This decision **does not have budget implications and can be immediately implemented.** Belarus delegation proposes to include into the report of the working group the **recommendation to rearrange items in the UN Journal and list the major and plenary events of the General Assembly prior to information about the Security Council meetings.**