

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

**at the First meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group
on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**

16 February 2006

Madam Chair,

At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate the Chairpersons on the appointment to these high posts. There is no need to say one more time that the tasks behind our Working Group are difficult and important.

The current interdependent international environment requires the strengthening of the multilateral system in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. As the General Assembly is the only United Nations body of universal membership, we do believe that by strengthening and revitalizing the General Assembly we are strengthening the whole United Nations system.

In our further work in this direction we should fully take into account the results of the implementation of the previous resolutions on the revitalization of the General Assembly, especially the resolutions 58/316 and 59/313. In this regard we are looking forward to the forthcoming status report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of these resolutions.

Madam Chair,

With regard to the reviewing the agenda of the Assembly we would like to note the following.

During the 58th and the 59th sessions we undertook significant efforts to review and rationalize the agenda of the plenary meetings and the Main Committees of the General Assembly. The majority of these measures have already proved to be useful. Some of the measures did not yield the expected result. Our task at this stage is just to find and eliminate these shortcomings.

Our group has to look for the ways to enhance authority, visibility and credibility of the General Assembly. We have to start our work in this direction from fully implementing the provisions of the resolution 59/313 which stressed the need to respect and maintain the balance between the principle organs of the United Nations within their respective purviews and mandates in accordance with the Charter. Now this balance is far from being respected and maintained, especially by the Security Council.

We strongly support the position of the Non-Aligned Movement outlined by the Malaysian delegation on behalf of NAM. We must prevent any encroachment by the Security Council or any other body on the functions and powers of the General Assembly.

Besides, there is a number of simple things how to enhance the credibility and authority of the General Assembly – simply to start our meetings on time, to read carefully previous relevant resolutions and analyze the results of their implementation before drafting and adopting new ones, and, not the least importantly, to accord the only universal principle organ of the UN a due priority in reporting of its activities in the daily “UN Journal”.

We wonder why information on meetings and other events of the Security Council and even those of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council precedes information on the plenary meetings and other major events of the General Assembly, even the World Summit meetings while throughout the UN Charter the provisions on the General Assembly precede the provisions on the Security Council.

Our group has to give an honest and plausible answer to these questions.