

**Ad hoc working group on revitalization
of the General Assembly
Thematic meeting 3**

19 April 2006

Statement

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

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Selection of the new Secretary-General is a very topical issue now and it is important to ensure that the General Assembly plays its decisive role in the process of selection.

The assessment of implementation of recommendations contained in resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997 can facilitate our work. We believe that these recommendations are still relevant and should be fully implemented.

The process of Secretary-General selection would be more transparent and inclusive if the General Assembly fully exercised its authority and if the President of the General Assembly consulted with Member States in order to find potential candidates and informed the Security Council about them.

The General Assembly should establish a procedure which allows every Member State to participate in the process of selection of the Secretary-General. For that the names of all candidates presented to the consideration of the Security Council should be also communicated to the General Assembly.

The candidates should be invited to meet with the chairmen of regional groups and give briefings to interested delegations. They should also submit to the General Assembly their views and proposals on strengthening the Organisation. Taking in account the significant authority and role of the Deputy Secretary-General it would be also useful if the candidates to the Secretary-General announced their candidate for the post of the Deputy Secretary-General.

As for qualifications of the candidates the UN Charter and resolution 51/241 have already set criteria for selecting the Secretary-General, namely the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity with due respect to regional rotation and gender equality.

We never doubted the competent judgment of the Security Council, including on the issue of selecting the best person for the position of the Secretary-General. Yet the problem is very delicate and the responsibilities for the right selection can become overwhelming. If we talk about democratization of the Organisation we also need to democratize the process of election of the Secretary-General.

Current practice established more than sixty years ago by the General Assembly resolution 11 (1) of 1 February 1946 provides that the Security Council recommends only one candidate to the General Assembly. Such procedure facilitates finding political compromise among members of the Security Council, especially among permanent members, but it does not ensure the selection of the best candidate. It is reasonable to consider changing this practice and establishing a procedure in accordance with which the Security Council would propose several candidates for consideration of the General Assembly.

Our common overriding goal in the process of selection of the Secretary-General should be to reaffirm and strengthen the role and authority of both the General Assembly and the Secretary-General as the only chief administrative officer of the Organisation.