



STATEMENT BY MRS. RUCHI GHANASHYAM, MINISTER, ON AGENDA ITEM  
121: FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING ON THE  
REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON FEBRUARY 21, 2008

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We congratulate the two Co-Chairs for their appointment and express our readiness to work constructively in this process. We would also like to express our appreciation for the two previous Co-Chairs, the Ambassadors of San Marino and Senegal, who undertook a thorough examination of all aspects of this issue. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Ambassador of Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

Through its resolution 61/292, the GA mandated the setting up of an ad-hoc working group to evaluate the implementation of previous resolutions on GA revitalization, including resolutions 58/126, 58/316, 59/313 and 60/286, as well as to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority and effectiveness of the GA, inter alia by building on previous resolutions. So far through the revitalization process that has been undertaken over the last several years, progress has been made especially in the area of improving the working methods of the GA. The revitalization process needs to continue the focus on substantive measures to restore and enhance the role and authority of the GA, including in the maintenance of international peace and security; the role of the GA as the chief oversight organ; through the GA deciding on management and procurement for peacekeeping operations, among others, as provided for in the Charter.

The statement by NAM has raised the issue of implementation of previous resolutions which is also the mandate given by resolution 61/292. The process that we are beginning today needs to focus on why some of the provisions of previous resolutions on GA revitalization have remained unimplemented. The synopsis of resolutions that you propose to bring out will be useful in this regard. In particular, one area where progress had been made through resolutions 51/241 and 60/286, but which remains largely unimplemented is the selection process of the Secretary-General. We look forward to discussing this issue during our future consultations.

The President of the GA can play an important role in the process of strengthening and revitalizing the GA. Recent resolutions have, therefore, focused on strengthening the role and leadership of the PGA.

We are satisfied that progress has taken place in implementing the provisions of recent resolutions for the strengthening of the office of the PGA through measures such as provision of additional staff, and thematic debates among others. We believe that there is need to assess the usefulness and adequacy of the several measures adopted and implemented thus far. Perhaps the Office of the PGA can be consulted on the adequacy of staff and other reinforcements necessary for effective functioning of the Office so that these needs can receive our due consideration.

But at the stage of the process of the revitalization of the GA, we must think creatively of steps that would lead to substantive revitalization of the Assembly so that it can more effectively perform the various functions mandated to it by the Charter. We must look at the issue of selection of the SG, the balance between the various principal organs and the encroachment by one principal organ over the mandate of the other and how this can be addressed in the future.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, we emphasize the need to discuss substantive steps and creative thinking for substantively moving forward on this important issue of further strengthen the role of the chief deliberative policy-making and representative body, the General Assembly. You can expect our constructive support and participation in your efforts.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chairs.

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