



Statement by H.E. M.S. Puri Ambassador & Acting Permanent Representative, on
Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly on
April 15, 2009

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

We congratulate the two Co-Chairs [Ambassadors of Norway and Ecuador] 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 Paraguay and Poland, who undertook a thorough examination of all aspects of this issue.

I hope that the relatively thin attendance today is neither reflective of the lack of interest in this critical issue of revitalisation of the General Assembly nor that all is in order and no action needs to be taken.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Since the very beginning, India's position on the entire issue of revitalization of the General Assembly has been guided by its desire to have a more effective United Nations.

India wants an organization that is truly responsive to the priorities and aspirations of the Member States, particularly for the developing countries, who constitute the vast majority of the membership. Its working methods must also embody efficiency.

India believes that the General Assembly will only be empowered if its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected in letter and in spirit.

Indeed, the strengthening of procedures, working methods, documentation etc and ensuring due follow up are important steps in that direction.

But more important is the need to continue the focus on substantive measures to restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly in exercising control over legislation, material and manpower, and its role as the chief oversight organ of the UN.

Being the voice of the international community, the General Assembly must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General.

Though, several mechanisms have been proposed to put in place a more inclusive and transparent procedure for the appointment of the Secretary-General, consistent with Article 97 of the Charter, there is hardly any progress in this regard.

The revitalization process also implies that the General Assembly take a lead in setting the global agenda and restore the centrality of the UN in this regard. The convening power of the United Nations must be used more decisively in this regard.

The fundamental disparity of authority between the Security Council and the General Assembly must be addressed.

And, it is important that a truly representative body such as the General Assembly have a much greater say in the international economic and financial matters.

The General Assembly's competence in areas such as the process of standard-setting and codification of international law must be scrupulously respected.

The issue of maintaining a balance between the various principal organs of the UN, preventing encroachments upon the mandate of the General Assembly and of making the Security Council more accountable to it must also be addressed.

This, in-fact, demands that the composition of the Security Council, especially in its permanent membership, be reflective of contemporary realities.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Before I end, let me re-emphasise the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, legislative and policy-making and representative body of the international community.

You can expect our constructive support and participation in your efforts.

Thank You

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