



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
AT THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE
REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 10 MAY 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for the leadership demonstrated as facilitator of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the General Assembly for its 67th session. Let me assure you of my delegation's continued cooperation and support in your efforts towards obtaining the maximum results possible during this session of the General Assembly on this important issue.

2. I also wish to thank all the Chairs of the Main Committees for the briefings on the working methods adopted at their respective committees in accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution A/66/294. The briefings have enabled member States a greater understanding of the work, as well as the problems and challenges faced in each Committee. It also allows us to raise concerns and seek clarification on the problems and challenges faced in order to further improve the working methods of the General Assembly as a whole.

3. At this juncture, I wish to align my statement with that delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

4. Malaysia agrees that procedural improvements and enhancing the working methods is important in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the General Assembly. On this note, we stand ready to look into issues such as rationalizing or clustering the list of agenda items. At the same time, we are open to consider the possibility of biennialization or triennialization of agenda items and resolutions.

5. It must be reminded here that while some may consider some agenda items and resolutions as less important and should not be given the current level of attention it currently enjoys, others may say the same for other agenda items and resolutions as well. As such, the consent of the co-sponsoring State or States is absolutely vital before any of the measures above are implemented.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Malaysia welcomes the convening of High Level Meetings and Thematic Debates that deliberates on a host of issues that are important to member States. On this, we are wary that there needs to be greater coordination with all concerned in organizing such meetings so as to avoid or at least minimize scheduling problems to delegations especially during the high-level general debate. In this regard, we look forward to discussing proposals in trying to resolve the problem of having too many high-level meetings and events during the general debate segment at the beginning of main sessions of the General Assembly.

7. On the election of the bureau, we reaffirm the practice of having the elections, on the basis of geographical distribution that takes place at least 3 months in advance of the next session in order to encourage advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees. The incoming bureau should meet and discuss with the outgoing Bureau to share best practices and consult on issues relating to the efficient functioning of the Main Committees. We also look forward to discussing in greater detail a mechanism in forming the bureau of the Main Committees for the 69th Session of the General Assembly and after.

Mr. Chairman,

8. We are willing to discuss various ways in improving the working methods of the General Assembly to make it more efficient. Be that as it may, in our view, enhancing efficiency is simply not enough to actually “revitalize” the General Assembly. We wish to reiterate that only when its rightful role as the principal policy making and norm-setting organ of the United Nations is restored can we truly consider ourselves as actually “revitalizing” the General Assembly.

9. My delegation wishes to reiterate our call for Member States to approach “revitalization” with openness and with the necessary political will in order to take concrete steps and make substantial progress on this front. My delegation stands ready in working constructively with you, Mr. Chairman, and other delegations in this regard.

I thank you.