



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, 1 JUNE 2012**

Co-Chairs,

I wish to commend both Co-Chairs for the leadership and efforts demonstrated as co-facilitators of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the General Assembly for its 66th session. My delegation welcomes today's deliberation on an aspect of Revitalization that is no less important than the other thematic issues that fall under the ambit of the Ad Hoc Working Group, that is, on enhancing the functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly including strengthening its institutional memory. On this note, allow me to align my statement with that made by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Co-Chairs,

2. The General Assembly is the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. As mentioned in previous statements, there is much that needs to be done for the General Assembly to reclaim its central role in the UN system. The role and functions of its President is certainly an area of concern that the Assembly can improve on towards this end.

3. It is obvious that the role and activities of the PGA have evolved significantly over the years. As all of us are aware, there is a marked increase in the number of issues and agenda items that are considered by the General Assembly – a number that is growing every year. That apart, other activities that accompany this exponential growth include, but are not confined to, performing official duties such as attending a growing number of conferences and meetings; representing the General Assembly in official visits overseas; and, enhancing the visibility of the work of the General Assembly. Worst still is that in recent years, the workload of the General Assembly covers the whole year rather than be limited to its main session.

4. Due to the mounting work demand of the PGA, it is only natural that the office bearer be provided the necessary resources to enable him or her to perform the role that has been entrusted

upon the Office by the UN Charter more efficiently and effectively. On this, my delegation is concerned on the lack of implementation on relevant provisions of resolutions 64/301 and 65/315 for the Secretary General to submit proposals for the funding and staffing for the Office of the PGA. We hope that this matter could be looked into to ensure that the provisions are carried out accordingly.

Co-Chairs,

5. We are certainly wary of the benefits of the trust fund established to assist in the funding of the work of the PGA. Nevertheless, it is important that funding for the regular budget be increased as to avoid the PGA being dependant on the trust fund and voluntary contributions, including that from the office bearer's own State, to carry out the PGA activities. For one, this would discourage countries that lack financial resources from presenting a candidate to serve the post of PGA. Should a candidate from less developed countries manage to be elected as PGA, this would put him or her at a disadvantage in terms of performing his or her functions. It would also affect the credibility and impartiality of the post as the PGA would need to rely on contributions from others to perform his or her duties effectively. The PGA serves all Member States, big or small, rich or poor, and in this regard, would need to be allocated adequate funding from the UN regular budget and not be dependant on other sources of funding.

Co-Chairs,

6. In strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the PGA, my delegation is pleased with the current practice of electing the next PGA at least three months before he or she takes office. This enables the Presidents-elect to be more familiarized with the role and functions that he or she would be assuming as well as be better prepared for the work that lies ahead. We welcome the decision to allocate dedicated staff within the Secretariat with the responsibility of coordinating the transition between the incoming and outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly as well as managing interactions between the PGA and the Secretary General. Briefings by the outgoing President on lessons learned and best practices to the President-elect would also help enhance the institutional memory of the Office.

Co-Chairs,

7. My delegation stands ready to work with you and other delegations in enhancing the functions of the PGA and strengthening its institutional memory as part of the overall effort to revitalize the General Assembly. Rest assured of my delegation's fullest cooperation in your effort to make further progress in this regard.

I thank you.