



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE SENATOR JASPAL SINGH,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA,
FOR THE JOINT DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 115: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND
AGENDA ITEM 116: REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT THE PLENARY OF THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 11 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank you for convening this meeting on an issue that is of particular importance to us and one that we feel strongly about. It is pleasing to note that you feel as strongly for the issue as well. I wish to also express Malaysia's appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Georgia and the Permanent Representative of Gambia for their efforts and leadership in steering the Ad Hoc Working Group during the 66th Session of the General Assembly. We appreciate the convening of four separate thematic meetings that enabled Member States to clearly focus on the different aspects of revitalization one theme at a time. The discussions undertaken and all efforts by Member States culminated in the report of the Working Group A/66/891, in which we have the Co-Chairs to thank for as well. On this note, I wish to align my statement with that made by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. President,

2. Year after year, revitalization remains a priority issue for the General Assembly. Despite the attention given to the issue, we have only managed to achieve qualified success in revitalizing the General Assembly. Over the years, we have seen some improvements to the working methods of the General Assembly. However, these improvements are minor. We still fail to address the real issue on why there is a need to revitalize the General Assembly. One must not forget that the key word being used here is "revitalization" and not "minor improvements to the General Assembly".

3. It is without a doubt that the General Assembly is the chief deliberative policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. It is the highest authoritative body of the United Nations as it represents all 193 member States. Therefore, we must duly accord it the role and authority it rightly deserves.

Mr. President,

4. My delegation firmly believes that the non-implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly continues to be the biggest stumbling block in enhancing the role and effectiveness of the organ. We reiterate that no other weakness of the General Assembly undermines its relevance or effectiveness more than the failure to implement resolutions. Malaysia appreciates the decision for the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue its review of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization.

We look forward to receiving the updated version of the inventory of those resolutions. This would allow Member States a better understanding of the reasons behind any lack of implementation of such resolutions. The Ad Hoc Working Group could then discuss and find ways to overcome problems so as to ensure that the resolutions are implemented. This is the first step towards the ultimate goal of realizing full implementation of all General Assembly resolutions.

5. Malaysia continues to view the issue of encroachment seriously. We cannot emphasize enough the need for all principal organs, especially the leading two organs – the General Assembly and the Security Council, to faithfully respect each other's mandates in accordance with the UN Charter. Both organs must work together in consultation and cooperation to create a more harmonious working relationship. Encroachment by one organ onto the mandate of the other would severely affect, not only the functioning of the organ alone itself, but the entire United Nations machinery as well.

Mr. President,

6. It is obvious that the role and activities of the PGA have evolved significantly over the years. There are now a number of issues and agenda items that are considered by the General Assembly as compared to just a few years ago. Furthermore, the workload of the General Assembly now covers the whole year rather than be limited to its main session. Due to this, it is only natural that the office bearer be provided the necessary resources to enable him or her to efficiently and effectively perform the role that has been entrusted upon the Office by the UN Charter.

7. While we recognize the benefits of the trust fund established to assist in the funding of the work of the PGA, it is nonetheless, important that funding for the regular budget be increased as to avoid the PGA being dependant on the trust fund and voluntary contributions. In this regard, Malaysia looks forward to proposals to review the budget of the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the biennium 2014-2015.

Mr. President,

8. On the issue of the selection and appointment of the Secretary General, Malaysia firmly believes that the Assembly would need to play a more meaningful role in the process. The selection process would need to be more transparent and inclusive of all Member States as the Secretary General is one that represents all Member States of the United Nations and not merely the Security Council alone. As such, it is important to implement past resolutions on the issue, especially paragraphs 17 to 22 of Annex of resolution 60/286 for future selections and appointments of the Secretary General.

Mr. President,

9. There is an undeniable need to focus on substantive aspects of the revitalization process, which would ensure that the General Assembly continues its role as the principal policy making and norm-setting organ of the United Nations. The issue of the 'Revitalization of the General Assembly' has been the subject of the plenary debate since 1991. Due to the number of years this issue has been considered, it is high time that all Member States approach the issue with openness and the necessary political will in order to realize tangible and substantial progress. Should pace of reform continue the way it has over the years, we would be awkwardly left with the agenda of 'revitalizing' the revitalization process. This is something that we can certainly avoid.

I thank you, Mr. President.