



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

413 EAST 51st STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-9613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

31 August 2006

Excellencies,

We have the honour to invite you to the eleventh meeting of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Friday, 1 September at 11 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

The purpose of the meeting will be to adopt the attached draft report and draft resolution. The attached text is the best possible compromise achievable under the circumstances. Please note that agreed language on OP10 of the draft resolution is still pending.

The draft report and draft resolution must be adopted in the working group by Friday, 1 September in order to allow for their consideration by the plenary of the General Assembly before the close of the 60th session, as stipulated in Resolution 59/313.

We thank all delegations for their cooperation over the past months and appeal for maximum flexibility in achieving consensus on the attached text at our final meeting on Friday morning.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalne
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

United Nations

**Report of the Ad Hoc
Working Group on the
revitalization of the General
Assembly established by General
Assembly resolution 59/313 of
12 September 2005**

**General Assembly
Official Records
Sixtieth Session**

United Nations □ New York, 2006

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005, the General Assembly:

“decide[d] to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly” [and]

“decide[d] also that the ad hoc working group shall submit a report with specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session”

2. This report and the recommendations contained therein are submitted pursuant to that request.

3. In his letter of 29 November 2005, the President of the General Assembly appointed Her Excellency Mrs. Solveiga Silkalna, Permanent Representative of Latvia and His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Alsaidi, Permanent Representative of Yemen, to serve as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group to guide this process.

4. In their letter dated 16 January 2005, in which they invited “all delegations to assist us in identifying ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly”, the Co-Chairs identified three key elements to be dealt with by the Working Group in pursuing its mandate:

- I) “to review the agenda of the General Assembly, in order to avoid redundancy;
- II) “to examine the role of the Assembly in light of current political realities, in order to enhance its credibility, authority and visibility;
- III) “to propose reforms to the working methods of the Assembly, in order to make it more effective and efficient.”

5. The Co-Chairs also stated their intention to assess the impact of previous relevant assembly resolutions and, as far as possible, to promote further implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

II. Proceedings

6. The Working Group held 11 meetings: on 16 February, 3, 16 and 29 March, 6, 19 and 26 April, 6, and 29 June, 21 July and 1 September 2006. At the request of the Co-chairs an open-ended drafting group was established to work on specific aspects of the recommendations. It met on 26, 28, and 31 July, and 3, and 8 August under the chairmanship of Mexico, and on 22, 23, and 25 August 2006 under the chairmanship of New Zealand.

7. At its first four meetings, on 16 February, 3, 16 and 29 March, the Working Group held a general debate to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 16 February, several delegations requested information from the Secretariat on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly. In response to this request, and in order to facilitate the work of the Ad hoc Working Group, an informal background note was prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to all Member States before the second meeting on 3 March 2006.

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 3 March, the Director of the General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division presented the informal note to the Ad hoc Working Group and answered questions by Member States. Further, members of the Working Group requested from the Secretariat an informal note on the work of the Main Committees on revitalization, which duly was submitted by the Secretariat in advance of the following meeting on 16 March.

10. At its 4th meeting on 29 March 2006, the Ad Hoc Working Group decided to reverse the order of the last two thematic meetings. Accordingly, after the first two thematic meetings, which focused on the role and authority of the General Assembly, the topic of the third thematic meeting, held on 19 April 2006, was devoted to the role of the General Assembly in the process of selecting the Secretary-General. The topic of the fourth and final thematic meeting, held on 26 April, was devoted to the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly.

11. The President of the General Assembly, who attended the 5th meeting on 26 April, delivered an address on the role and the authority of the General Assembly in ongoing United Nations reforms, focusing as well on its impact on the revitalization process and on its role in the selection of the Secretary-General.

12. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Co-Chairs thanked delegations for their interest and suggestions. They indicated their intention to compile the information, requests, and recommendations that had been provided to them by Member States, as well as their plan to revert to delegations with their consolidation of these, which would be in the form of recommendations for elements for a draft resolution by the Assembly

13. At its 4th through 7th meetings, on 29 March 2006, 6, 19 and 26 April 2006, the Working Group held thematic debates on the following clusters, as proposed by the Co-Chairs: role and authority of the General Assembly (29 March and 6 April); role of the General Assembly in selecting the Secretary-General (19 April); and working methods and agenda of the General Assembly (26 April).

14. The open-ended drafting group met at the request of the Co-chairs, on 26, 28, and 31 July, and 3, and 8 August under the chairmanship of Mexico, and on 22, 23, and 25 August 2006 under the chairmanship of New Zealand. Its efforts focused on further refining its common understanding of issues including the role and authority of the General Assembly, the selection of the Secretary-General, and the working methods of the General Assembly.

A. Role and authority of the General Assembly

15. The Working Group identified issues surrounding the role and authority of the General Assembly as central to efforts to revitalize it. Deep concern was expressed by some regarding the relationship and balance of roles between the Security Council and the General Assembly.

16. The Working Group felt strongly that the relationships between the General Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations should continue to be strengthened. As a general principle, delegations insisted, any approach to addressing the relationship between the principal organs should be one based upon cooperation and the need for balance, and must respect the roles of the principal organs under the Charter.

17. Several delegations stated their view that the best way of revitalization was the consideration of topics of essential importance to the organization as a whole by the General Assembly and that it was the responsibility of Member States to have the General Assembly seized with such topics.

18. Several delegations reiterated their views on the need for the General Assembly to convene and organize major thematic debates in order to facilitate broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States.

19. The point was also frequently underscored that the role of the General Assembly on matters of peace and security should be reaffirmed, for while it was acknowledged that the Security Council has primary responsibility in this area, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, it was also clearly recalled that that mandate is not exclusive. In this connection, the General Assembly should enhance its examination and discussion of issues of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Charter.

20. Delegations also raised specific points regarding two reports from the Security Council to the General Assembly, namely the annual report of the Security Council and its special subject-oriented reports. Some speakers reiterated their request that the former should be more analytical and presented in a timely manner before the commencement of the General Debate. As regards the latter, it was noted that no special subject-oriented reports had yet been submitted or presented by the Council and these would be highly welcome.

21. The need for enhanced complementarity between the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly was also flagged by a number of speakers, some of whom suggested that this might be achieved in part through a review of ECOSOC's work distribution. Further, delegations expressed the desire that the report of ECOSOC to the Assembly be more analytical and streamlined. They also felt that further effort should be made to avoid overlap between ECOSOC and the Second and Third Committees.

22. On one aspect of strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, a number of delegations encouraged the submission by each outgoing President of a short report on lessons learnt, emphasizing the importance of continuity in the transfer from President to President and of acquiring and cementing institutional memory.

23. On the issue of the content and impact of General Assembly resolutions, a number of speakers continued to underscore the need to make resolutions more concise and action-oriented, including by shortening the number of preambular paragraphs. A majority of these speakers also underscored that future resolutions should clearly add value to existing ones.

24. On implementation of resolutions, some speakers also raised a possible role for the Secretariat in providing information on the implementation and status of resolutions dealing with the issue. Some agreed that focus and stress should remain on the implementation of the Assembly's resolutions, as this in itself is one of the keys to its revitalization. In this connection, they suggested that obstacles impeding the implementation of resolutions may be identified and possible mechanisms to monitor the implementation of resolutions and mandates should be developed.

25. While a number of delegations upheld the important role that non-governmental organizations and civil society play in enhancing the Assembly's work and outreach, most of them nevertheless underscored that consultation between the General Assembly and other actors should be carried out in accordance with the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure and that the Assembly's intergovernmental nature should be preserved.

26. Some delegations encouraged further raising the visibility of the General Assembly, a few of them specifically supporting the efforts of the Department of Public Information in this endeavour, and some others particularly noting the need to encourage the participation of and coverage by the mass media of developing countries in the Assembly's work.

27. On 19 April, the Co-Chairs presented the Working Group with a report of the 18 April meeting between the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, at which the President of the Security Council provided an update on the Security Council's progress with regards to the selection of the next Secretary-General. This report was welcomed by a number of delegations, and it was subsequently circulated in writing to the working group.

B. Role of the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General

28. A number of delegations underscored the 'partnership' between the Security Council and the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter.

29. A number of speakers highlighted the relevance of Assembly resolutions 11(1) of 1946 and 51/241 in elaborating the procedures for the selection of the Secretary-General, some advocating an amendment to 11(1) that would call for the Security Council to recommend more than one candidate to the General Assembly.

30. Many delegations addressing this issue expressed the view that the process of selecting the Secretary-General needed to be more transparent and that the relevant provisions in the annex of resolution 51/241 should be taken into consideration regarding the involvement of the Assembly in the selection process.

31. On the issue of the criteria for and qualities of candidates for the post of Secretary-General, the merits of having standards in place as a guide to selection were appreciated, but many speakers on this point were of the view that such criteria should be limited and general in nature. Additionally, many underlined the importance of Member States being fully aware of the qualifications of candidates, as well as the pressing need for appropriate mechanisms to be devised that would serve this purpose.

32. With regard to the issues of regional rotation and gender equality, many delegations indicated that resolution 51/241 (and particularly its paragraph 59) should be reaffirmed. A number of speakers also suggested that the mandate of future Secretaries General should be limited to a single term, arguing that this would remove any basis for suggestion that the Secretary-General's conduct could or might be influenced by expectation of re-appointment.

33. Some of those addressing this issue also supported the possibility of a deadline being established by which candidacies for post of Secretary-General should be submitted, believing that this would allow for the building of broad support for a candidate to begin to occur earlier. To ensure a smooth transition between the incoming and outgoing Secretaries-General, however, they felt that the existing provisions of paragraph 61 of the annex of resolution 51/241 are sufficient.

C. Working methods of the General Assembly

34. Many in the Working Group continued to call for a shorter General Assembly agenda. In this regard, the role that political considerations played in implementation and in the choice of items and preparation of resolutions was underscored. All agreed, nonetheless, that the right of Member States to decide on tabling resolutions must continue to be preserved.

35. Some delegations indicated that the way in which the General Assembly takes its decisions, specifically the tendency towards the adoption of resolutions without a vote, should be discussed in the context of the revitalization of the General Assembly.

36. A few delegations recalled the request that the consolidated version of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure be made available in all official languages in print and online. Some of these also suggested the role that the Office of Legal Affairs might play in the documentation of procedures and precedents that would lead to the consolidation of best practices, hoping that this possibility might be investigated further.

37. While delegations focusing on the work and revitalization of the Main Committees acknowledged that these Committees themselves should decide on their own agendas, many nonetheless felt that agenda rationalization overall required a strengthened role for the General Committee, which must oversee the distribution of work, and that this role should also be encouraged. Some delegations also highlighted the importance of streamlining the working methods of the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, while other delegations stated that any such efforts must be made by the Committee itself. A number of Delegations emphasized that the General Assembly should not be overly prescriptive in managing the work of the subsidiary bodies, including the Special Committee.

38. A number of speakers on this issue noted that the General Committee had not made any recommendations on it since the adoption of resolution 58/316. They strongly encouraged it to make proposals on a more regular basis regarding the biennialization, triennialization, clustering, and elimination of agenda items, though they acknowledged that the General Committee should avoid delving into substantive matters. A number of those concerned with this issue also encouraged joint informal debates between the Second and Third Committees.

39. On election procedures, a number of delegations recalled the issue of utilization of optical scanners to expedite counting in elections, as recommended in paragraph 15 of resolution 59/313, urging the continued pursuit of this technology.

40. With regard to documentation, some delegations reprised their call for reports to be more concise and analytical.

III. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group

41. At its 11th meeting, held on 1 September 2006, the Ad Hoc Working Group considered and adopted the draft resolution and the present report for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

IV. Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly

42. At its 11th meeting, on 1 September 2006, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly concluded its work for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. The Ad Hoc Working Group decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[Text of draft resolution adopted by the Working
Group will be inserted here.]

31 August 2006

Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly

Draft Resolution

REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

Reaffirming also the authority and strengthening the role of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter, and *reaffirming* its central role in the reform process,

Recognizing also that the General Assembly is the universal and representative forum comprising all Members of the United Nations,

Stressing the need fully to respect and maintain the balance between the principal organs of the United Nations within their respective purviews and mandates, in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming that the plenary meetings of the General Assembly should constitute a forum for high-level policy statements, as well as for the consideration, inter alia, of agenda items of special importance or urgency,

Underscoring the importance of providing adequate resources for the implementation of mandated programmes and activities,

Reaffirming its authority in the consideration of all budgetary issues, as stipulated in the Charter,

Reaffirming also its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work, particularly resolutions 59/313, 58/316, and 58/126,

Also recalling resolution 51/241,

Noting, with appreciation, the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly established by General Assembly resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005,

1. Decides to adopt the text contained in the annex to the present resolution.

/...

Annex

Cluster 1 – Role and Authority of General Assembly

In the context of further strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly as set out in the Charter of the United Nations;

1. *Reaffirms* the role and the authority of the General Assembly, including on questions related to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate using the procedures set forth in rules 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;
2. *Urges* the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC to meet periodically to ensure increased cooperation and coordination of their work programmes in accordance with their respective responsibilities under the Charter. The President of the General Assembly shall inform Member States about the outcome of these meetings on a regular basis;
3. *Encourages* the holding of thematic interactive debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community in the General Assembly and *invites* the President of the General Assembly to propose themes for such interactive debates, in consultation with Member States;
4. *Invites* the Security Council to further its initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the General Assembly with a substantive and analytical report;
5. In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in resolution 51/241, annex, paragraph 12, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the Security Council report, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Security Council;
6. *Invites* the Security Council to update the General Assembly on a regular basis on the steps it has taken or is contemplating with respect to improving its reporting to the Assembly;
7. *Also invites* the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 15 and Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern;

/...

8. *Invites* also ECOSOC to continue to prepare its report to the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, striving to make it more concise and action-oriented, by highlighting the critical areas requiring action by the General Assembly and, as appropriate, by making specific recommendations for consideration by the Member States;

9. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, at the end of his/her tenure, to provide an informal short report on best practices and lessons learnt to his/her successor;

[10. *Decides, in accordance with its resolution 59/313, to augment the resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly to provide for two further additional posts at management and senior levels, to be filled on an annual basis following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the sixty-first session;*]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of transitional office accommodation and other support to the President-elect of the General Assembly, in accordance with 58/126;

12. *Encourages* enhanced interaction, as and where appropriate, with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and particularly those from developing countries, on relevant issues, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the General Assembly and in conformity with relevant Rules of Procedure;

13. *Encourages*, where appropriate, the continued cooperation between the General Assembly and national and regional parliaments, particularly through the Interparliamentary Union;

14. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of the work of the General Assembly;

15. *Urges* the Secretariat to continue its endeavours to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and, toward this end, requests the rearrangement of items in the Journal of the United Nations so that listings of Plenary and other major events of the General Assembly may appear alongside those of the meetings of the Security Council;

16. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly to increase their public visibility including through enhanced contacts with representatives of media and civil society thus promoting the activities of the General Assembly and *encourages* the Secretary-General to continue the practice of providing to the Office of the President of the General Assembly a Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly and an Assistant to the Spokesperson;

/...

Cluster II- Selection of the Secretary-General

17. *Recalls* Article 97 of the Charter, as well as the provisions of GA resolutions 11(1) of 1946 and 51/241 of 1997, as relevant to the role of the General Assembly in appointing the Secretary-General, upon the recommendation of the Security Council;

18. *Bearing* in mind the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, *emphasizes* the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be inclusive to all Member States and made more transparent and, in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for the post of Secretary-General, due regard be given to regional rotation and gender equality, and *invites* the Security Council to regularly update the General Assembly on the steps it has taken in this regard;

19. *Respecting* the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, encourages the President of the General Assembly to consult with Member States to identify potential candidates endorsed by a Member State and, upon informing all Member States of the results, to forward these results to the Security Council;

20. *Encourages* formal presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States, and *requests* candidates to present their views to all Member States of the General Assembly;

21. *Recalls* paragraph 61 of resolution 51/241, which states that, in order to ensure a smooth and effective transition, the Secretary-General should be appointed as early as possible, preferably no later than one month before the date on which the term of the incumbent expires;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of candidates for the post of Secretary-General possessing and displaying, inter alia, commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, extensive leadership, administrative, and diplomatic experience;

Cluster III- Working methods

23. *Reaffirms* the sovereign right of Member States to submit proposals in the context of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure, and *encourages* Member States to submit draft resolutions in a more concise, focused, and action-oriented form;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online, and *requests* the Office of Legal Affairs to make precedents and past practice available in the public domain with respect to rules and practices of the intergovernmental bodies of the organization;

/...

25. *Requests* the Main Committees to continue their efforts to further rationalize their agendas and to improve their working methods and invites the Bureaux of the Main Committees to enhance their cooperation, in conformity with the Rules of Procedure;

26. In that respect, *decides* to give due consideration to those recommendations of the Main Committees regarding the improvement of their working methods and the allocation of agenda items, which require the approval of the General Assembly for their implementation;

27. *Reiterates* its call for the effective implementation of rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly;

28. *Requests* an update on its recommendation, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 59/313, regarding consideration of the use of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the modalities thereof to the General Assembly;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement further the measures set out in paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002 on the consolidation of reports and in paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 58/316, on documentation;

30. *Recalls* paragraph 19 of resolution 59/313 and requests the Secretary-General to submit a status report with a factual chart to the General Assembly at its 61st session on the implementation of all resolutions regarding the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 58/126, 58/316 and 59/313, and the present resolution;

31. *Decides* to invite the President of the General Assembly of the sixty-first session, after consultations with Member States, to establish an ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly, open to all Member States, to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.



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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
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18 August 2006

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the next meeting of the open-ended drafting group on revitalization of the General Assembly will take place on Tuesday, 22 August at 3 p.m. in Conference Room 8.

The purpose of the meeting will be to continue negotiations on the draft resolution on the revitalization of the General Assembly, the latest version of which was circulated to all delegations by Ms Amparo Anguiano, the facilitator from the Permanent Mission of Mexico, on 9 August.

As the delegation of Mexico will not be able to continue in the role of facilitator, I am pleased to inform you that this role will now be assumed by Ms Kirsty Graham from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand. I thank Ms Anguiano most sincerely for her skilful chairing of the drafting group.

In the time remaining before the next meeting of the drafting group, I would encourage all delegations to engage directly with each other in the search for common solutions to the outstanding issues.

I appeal for maximum cooperation and flexibility from all participants of the drafting group, so that an agreed text can be adopted by the ad hoc Working group on revitalization of the General Assembly no later than the beginning of the week of 28 August.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
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14 July 2006

Excellency,

Please find attached, for your consideration, a further revised draft report and recommendations of the ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly.

I also have the honour to invite you to the tenth meeting of the ad hoc working group on Friday, 21 July at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

It is my hope that we will be able to conclude our discussions on the draft report and recommendations of the ad hoc working group at that meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

A/60/ --

United Nations

**Report of the Ad Hoc
Working Group on the
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United Nations □ New York, 2006

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Introduction

1. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005, the General Assembly:

“decide[d] to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly” [and]

“decide[d] also that the ad hoc working group shall submit a report with specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session”
2. This report and the recommendations contained therein are submitted pursuant to that request.
3. In his letter of 29 November 2005, the President of the General Assembly appointed the Ambassadors of Latvia and Yemen to serve as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group and to guide this process.
4. In their letter dated 16 January 2005, in which they invited “all delegations to assist us in identifying ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly”, the Co-Chairs identified three key elements to be dealt with by the Working Group in pursuing its mandate:
 - I) “to review the agenda of the General Assembly, in order to avoid redundancy;
 - II) “to examine the role of the Assembly in light of current political realities, in order to enhance its credibility, authority and visibility;
 - III) “to propose reforms to the working methods of the Assembly, in order to make it more effective and efficient.”
5. The Co-Chairs also stated their intention to assess the impact of previous relevant assembly resolutions and, as far as possible, to promote further implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

Proceedings

6. The Working Group held seven meetings: on 16 February, 3, 16 and 29 March, and 6, 19 and 26 April 2006.
7. At its first, second, and third meetings, on 16 February, 3, 16 and 29 March, the Working Group held a general debate to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly.
8. At the first meeting, on 16 February, several delegations requested information from the Secretariat on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly. In response to this request, and in order to facilitate the work of the Ad hoc Working Group, an informal background note was prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to all Member States before the second meeting on 3 March 2006.
9. At its second meeting, on 3 March, the Director of the General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division presented the informal note to the Ad hoc Working Group and answered questions by Member States. Further, members of the Working Group requested from the Secretariat an informal note on the work of the Main Committees on revitalization, which duly was submitted by the Secretariat in advance of the following meeting on 16 March.
10. At its meeting on 29 March 2006, the Ad Hoc Working Group decided to reverse the order of the last two thematic meetings. Accordingly, after the first two thematic meetings, which focused on the role and authority of the General Assembly, the topic of the third thematic meeting, held on 19 April 2006, was devoted to the role of the General Assembly in the process of selecting the Secretary-General. The topic of the fourth and final thematic meeting, held on 26 April, was devoted to the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly.
11. The President of the General Assembly, who attended the fourth meeting of the Ad hoc working group, delivered an address on the role and the authority of the General Assembly in ongoing United Nations reforms, focusing as well on its impact on the revitalization process and on its role in the selection of the Secretary-General.
12. At its fourth through seventh meetings, on 29 March 2006, 6, 19 and 26 April 2006, the Working Group held thematic debates on the following clusters, as

proposed by the Co-Chairs: role and authority of the General Assembly (29 March and 6 April); role of the General Assembly in selecting the Secretary-General (19 April); and working methods and agenda of the General Assembly (26 April).

I) Role and Authority of the General Assembly

13. The Working Group identified issues surrounding the role and authority of the General Assembly as central to efforts to revitalize it. Deep concern was expressed by some regarding the relationship and balance of roles between the Security Council and the General Assembly.
14. The Working Group felt strongly that the relationships between the General Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations should continue to be strengthened. As a general principle, delegations insisted, any approach to addressing the relationship between the principal organs should be one based upon cooperation and the need for balance, and must respect the roles of the principal organs under the Charter.
- 14bis. Several delegations stated their view that the best way of revitalization was the consideration of topics of essential importance to the organization as a whole by the General Assembly and that it was the responsibility of Member States to have the General Assembly seized with such topics.
- 14ter. Several delegations reiterated their views on the need for the General Assembly to convene and organize major thematic debates in order to facilitate broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States.
15. The point was also frequently underscored that the role of the General Assembly on matters of peace and security should be reaffirmed, for while it was acknowledged that the Security Council has primary responsibility in this area, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, it was also clearly recalled that that mandate is not exclusive. In this connection, the General Assembly should enhance its examination and discussion of issues of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Charter.
16. Delegations also raised specific points regarding two reports from the Security Council to the General Assembly, namely the annual report of the Security Council and its special subject-oriented reports. Some speakers reiterated their request that the former should be more analytical and presented in a timely manner before the commencement of the General Debate. As regards the latter, it was noted that no special subject-oriented reports had yet been submitted or presented by the Council and these would be highly welcome.

17. The need for enhanced complementarity between ECOSOC and the General Assembly was also flagged by a number of speakers, some of whom suggested that this might be achieved in part through a review of ECOSOC's work distribution. Further, delegations expressed the desire that the report of ECOSOC to the Assembly be more analytical and streamlined. They also felt that further effort should be made to avoid overlap between ECOSOC and the Second and Third Committees.
18. On one aspect of strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, a number of delegations encouraged the submission by each outgoing President of a short report on lessons learnt, emphasising the importance of continuity in the transfer from President to President and of acquiring and cementing institutional memory.
19. On the issue of the content and impact of General Assembly resolutions, a number of speakers continued to underscore the need to make resolutions more concise and action-oriented, including by shortening the number of preambular paragraphs. A majority of these speakers also underscored that future resolutions should clearly add value to existing ones.
20. On implementation of resolutions, some speakers also raised a possible role for the Secretariat in providing information on the implementation and status of resolutions dealing with the issue. Some agreed that focus and stress should remain on the implementation of the Assembly's resolutions, as this in itself is one of the keys to its revitalization. In this connection, they suggested that obstacles impeding the implementation of resolutions may be identified and possible mechanisms to monitor the implementation of resolutions and mandates should be developed.
21. While a number of delegations upheld the important role that non-governmental organisations and civil society play in enhancing the Assembly's work and outreach, most of them nevertheless underscored that consultation between the General Assembly and other actors should be carried out in accordance with the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure and that the Assembly's intergovernmental nature should be preserved.
22. Some delegations encouraged further raising the visibility of the General Assembly, a few of them specifically supporting the efforts of the Department of Public Information in this endeavour, and some others particularly noting the need to encourage the participation of and coverage by the mass media of developing countries in the Assembly's work.
- 22bis. On April 19, the Co-Chairs presented the Working Group with a report of the April 18 meeting between the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, at which the President of the Security Council provided an update on the Security Council's progress with regards to the selection of the

next Secretary-General. This report was welcomed by a number of delegations, and it was subsequently circulated in writing to the working group.

II) Role of the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General

23. A number of delegations underscored the ‘partnership’ between the Security Council and the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter.
24. A number of speakers highlighted the relevance of Assembly resolutions 11(1) of 1946 and 51/241 in elaborating the procedures for the selection of the Secretary-General, some advocating an amendment to 11(1) that would call for the Security Council to recommend more than one candidate to the General Assembly.
25. Many delegations addressing this issue expressed the view that the process of selecting the Secretary-General needed to be more transparent and that the relevant provisions in the annex of resolution 51/241 should be taken into consideration regarding the involvement of the Assembly in the selection process.
26. On the issue of the criteria for and qualities of candidates for the post of Secretary-General, the merits of having standards in place as a guide to selection were appreciated, but many speakers on this point were of the view that such criteria should be limited and general in nature. Additionally, many underlined the importance of Member States being fully aware of the qualifications of candidates, as well as the pressing need for appropriate mechanisms to be devised that would serve this purpose.
27. With regard to the issues of regional rotation and gender equality, many delegations indicated that resolution 51/241 (and particularly its paragraph 59) should be reaffirmed. A number of speakers also suggested that the mandate of future Secretaries General should be limited to a single term, arguing that this would remove any basis for suggestion that the Secretary-General’s conduct could or might be influenced by expectation of re-appointment.
28. Some of those addressing this issue also supported the possibility of a deadline being established by which candidacies for post of Secretary-General should be submitted, believing that this would allow for the building of broad support for a candidate to begin to occur earlier. To ensure a smooth transition between the incoming and outgoing Secretaries-General, however, they felt that the existing provisions of paragraph 61 of the annex of resolution 51/241 are sufficient.

III) Working methods of the General Assembly

29. Many in the Working Group continued to call for a shorter General Assembly agenda. In this regard, the role that political considerations played in implementation and in the choice of items and preparation of resolutions was underscored. All agreed, nonetheless, that the right of Member States to decide on tabling resolutions must continue to be preserved.
- 30bis. Some delegations indicated that the way in which the General Assembly takes its decisions, specifically the tendency towards the adoption of resolutions without a vote, should be discussed in the context of the revitalization of the General Assembly.
30. A few delegations recalled the request that the consolidated version of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure be made available in all official languages in print and online. Some of these also suggested the role that the Office of Legal Affairs might play in the documentation of procedures and precedents that would lead to the consolidation of best practices, hoping that this possibility might be investigated further.
31. While delegations focusing on the work and revitalization of the Main Committees acknowledged that these Committees themselves should decide on their own agendas, many nonetheless felt that agenda rationalization overall required a strengthened role for the General Committee, which must oversee the distribution of work, and that this role should also be encouraged. Some delegations also highlighted the importance of streamlining the working methods of the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, while other delegations stated that any such efforts must be made by the Committee itself. A number of Delegations emphasized that the General Assembly should not be overly prescriptive in managing the work of the subsidiary bodies, including the Special Committee.
32. A number of speakers on this issue noted that the General Committee had not made any recommendations on it since the adoption of resolution 58/316. They strongly encouraged it to make proposals on a more regular basis regarding the biennialization, triennialization, clustering, and elimination of agenda items, though they acknowledged that the General Committee should avoid delving into substantive matters. A number of those concerned with this issue also encouraged joint informal debates between the Second and Third Committees.
33. On election procedures, a number of delegations recalled the issue of utilization of optical scanners to expedite counting in elections, as recommended in paragraph 15 of resolution 59/313, urging the continued pursuit of this technology.

34. With regard to documentation, some delegations reprised their call for reports to be more concise and analytical.

Conclusion

35. At the conclusion of the 26 April meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the Co-Chairs thanked delegations for their interest and suggestions. They indicated their intention to compile the information, requests, and recommendations that had been provided to them by Member States, as well as their plan to revert to delegations with their consolidation of these, which would be in the form of recommendations for elements for a draft resolution by the Assembly. These recommendations are attached in the annex that follows.

XX. Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly

36. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the General Assembly is the political body with universal membership of the United Nations and *emphasizing* its central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

Reaffirming the authority and strengthening the role of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter, and *reaffirming* its central role in the reform process,

Recognizing also that the General Assembly is the universal and representative forum comprising all Members of the United Nations,

Stressing the need fully to respect and maintain the balance between the principal organs of the United Nations within their respective purviews and mandates, in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming that the plenary meetings of the General Assembly should constitute a forum for high-level policy statements, as well as for the consideration, inter alia, of agenda items of special importance or urgency,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work, particularly resolutions 59/313, 58/316, and 58/126,

Noting, with appreciation, the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly established by General Assembly resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005,

Also recalling resolution 51/241,

1. Decides to adopt the text contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Cluster 1 – Role and Authority of General Assembly

In the context of further strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly as set out in the Charter of the United Nations;

1. *Reaffirms* the role and the authority of the General Assembly, including on questions related to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate using the procedures set forth in rules 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;
2. *Urges* the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC to meet periodically to ensure increased cooperation and coordination of their work programmes in accordance with their respective responsibilities under the Charter. The President of the General Assembly shall inform Member States about the outcome of these meetings on a regular basis;
3. *Encourages* the holding of thematic interactive debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community in the General Assembly and *invites* the President of the General Assembly to propose themes for such interactive debates, in consultation with Member States;
4. *Invites* the Security Council to further its initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the General Assembly with a substantive and analytical report;
5. In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in resolution 51/241, annex, paragraph 12, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the Security Council report, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Security Council;
6. *Invites* the Security Council to update the General Assembly on a regular basis on the steps it has taken or is contemplating with respect to improving its reporting to the Assembly;
7. *Also invites* the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 15 and Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern;

8. *Invites* also ECOSOC to continue to prepare its report to the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, striving to make it more concise and action-oriented, by highlighting the critical areas requiring action by the General Assembly and, as appropriate, by making specific recommendations for consideration by the Member States;
9. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, at the end of his/her tenure, to provide a short report on best practices and lessons learnt for his/her successor;
10. *Decides* to strengthen the Office of the President of the General Assembly by augmenting the resources available to the Office, to provide for additional professional posts to be filled on an annual basis, based upon the assessment included in the report indicated in the paragraph above and the request of the incoming President;
11. *Encourages* enhanced interaction with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and particularly those from developing countries, on relevant issues, keeping in mind the intergovernmental nature of the General Assembly and in conformity with the applicable Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly;
12. *Encourages*, where appropriate, the continued cooperation between the General Assembly and national and regional parliaments, particularly through the Interparliamentary Union;
13. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness the work of the General Assembly within existing resources;
14. *Urges* the Secretariat to continue its endeavours to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and, toward this end, requests the rearrangement of items in the Journal of the United Nations so that listings of Plenary and other major events of the General Assembly may appear alongside those of the meetings of the Security Council, within existing resources;
15. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly to increase their public visibility including through enhanced contacts with representatives of media and civil society thus promoting the activities of the General Assembly and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue the practice of providing to the Office of the President of the General Assembly a Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly and an Assistant to the Spokesperson, within existing resources;

Cluster II- Selection of the Secretary-General

16. *Recalls* Article 97 of the Charter, as well as the provisions of GA resolutions 11(1) of 1946 and 51/241 of 1997, as relevant to the role of the General Assembly in appointing the Secretary-General, upon the recommendation of the Security Council;
17. *Emphasizes* the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be made more transparent and, in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for that position, for due regard to be given to regional rotation and gender equality and *invites* the Security Council regularly to update the General Assembly on the steps it has taken in this regard;
18. *Encourages* presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States;
19. *Encourages* candidates for the position of Secretary-General to present their views to Member States, and *requests* the President of the General Assembly to facilitate such consultations, including through the convening of informal meetings, as required;
- 19bis. *Recalls* paragraph 61 of resolution 51/241, which states that, in order to ensure a smooth and effective transition, the Secretary-General should be appointed as early as possible, preferably no later than one month before the date on which the term of the incumbent expires;
20. *Emphasizes* the importance of candidates for the post of Secretary-General possessing and displaying, *inter alia*, commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, extensive leadership, administrative, and diplomatic experience;

Cluster III- Working methods

21. *Encourages*, as and where appropriate, further efforts to rationalize the agenda of the General Assembly, *inter alia* through further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items in an open, transparent, and inclusive manner;
22. *Invites* Member States to submit draft resolutions in a more concise, focused and action-oriented form;
23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online, and *requests* the Office of Legal Affairs to make precedents and past practice available in the public domain with respect to rules and practices of the intergovernmental bodies of the organization;
24. *Requests* the Main Committees to continue their efforts to further rationalize their agendas and to improve their working methods and *recommends*, in conformity with the

Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, that the Bureaux of the Main Committees enhance their cooperation;

24bis. In that respect, *decides* to give due consideration to those recommendations of the Main Committees regarding the improvement of their working methods and the allocation of agenda items, which require the approval of the General Assembly for their implementation;

25. *Invites* the General Committee to encourage the elaboration of proposals on joint debates of the Second and Third Committees on relevant interconnected agenda items and *invites* the Second and Third Committees to thoroughly consider such proposals;

26. *Reiterates* its call for the effective implementation of rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, whereby the General Committee shall meet periodically throughout each session to review the progress of the General Assembly and its committees and to make recommendations for furthering such progress and minimizing unnecessary duplication;

27. *Requests* an update on its recommendation, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 59/313, regarding consideration of the use of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the modalities thereof to the General Assembly;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement further the measures set out in paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002 on the consolidation of reports and in paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 58/316, on documentation;

29. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide on an annual basis a factual chart, for the information of Member States, on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolutions;

30. *Calls* for submission of the status report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its current session on the implementation of all resolutions regarding the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 58/126, 58/316 and 59/313;

31. *Decides*, in order to allow for the implementation of relevant resolutions on the revitalization of the General Assembly, to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly in the 62nd session.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

413 EAST 51st STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-6613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

26 June 2006

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to the ninth meeting of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Thursday, 29 June at 3 p.m. (venue to be announced in the Journal).

The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the attached revised draft report and recommendations for elements for a draft resolution.

Please also find attached information relevant to the staffing situation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly, pertaining to OP9 in the draft recommendations for elements for a draft resolution.

We appreciate your active contribution to the deliberations of our working group. We now appeal for maximum cooperation and flexibility from all delegations in order to complete our work at our next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalne
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

A/60/ --

United Nations

**Report of the Ad Hoc
Working Group on the
revitalization of the General
Assembly established by General
Assembly resolution 59/313 of
12 September 2005**

**General Assembly
Official Records
Sixtieth Session**

United Nations □ New York, 2006

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Introduction

1. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005, the General Assembly:

“decide[d] to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly” [and]

“decide[d] also that the ad hoc working group shall submit a report with specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session”.
2. This report and the recommendations contained therein are submitted pursuant to that request.
3. In his letter of 29 November 2005, the President of the General Assembly appointed the Ambassadors of Latvia and Yemen to serve as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group and to guide this process.
4. In their letter dated 16 January 2005, in which they invited “all delegations to assist us in identifying ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly”, the Co-Chairs identified three key elements to be dealt with by the Working Group in pursuing its mandate:
 - I) “to review the agenda of the General Assembly, in order to avoid redundancy;
 - II) “to examine the role of the Assembly in light of current political realities, in order to enhance its credibility, authority and visibility;
 - III) “to propose reforms to the working methods of the Assembly, in order to make it more effective and efficient.”
5. The Co-Chairs also stated their intention to assess the impact of previous relevant assembly resolutions and, as far as possible, to promote further implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

Proceedings

6. The Working Group held seven meetings: on 16 February, 3, 16 and 29 March, and 6, 19 and 26 April 2006.
7. At its first, second, and third meetings, on 16 February, 3, 16 and 29 March, the Working Group held a general debate to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly.
8. At the first meeting, on 16 February, several delegations requested information from the Secretariat on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly. In response to this request, and in order to facilitate the work of the Ad hoc Working Group, an informal background note was prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to all Member States before the second meeting on 3 March 2006.
9. At its second meeting, on 3 March, the Director of the General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division presented the informal note to the Ad hoc Working Group and answered questions by Member States. Further, members of the Working Group requested from the Secretariat an informal note on the work of the Main Committees on revitalization, which duly was submitted by the Secretariat in advance of the following meeting on 16 March.
10. At its meeting on 29 March 2006, the Ad Hoc Working Group decided to reverse the order of the last two thematic meetings. Accordingly, after the first two thematic meetings, which focused on the role and authority of the General Assembly, the topic of the third thematic meeting, held on 19 April 2006, was devoted to the role of the General Assembly in the process of selecting the Secretary-General. The topic of the fourth and final thematic meeting, held on 26 April, was devoted to the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly.
11. The President of the General Assembly, who attended the fourth meeting of the Ad hoc working group, delivered an address on the role and the authority of the General Assembly in ongoing United Nations reforms, focusing as well on its impact on the revitalization process and on its role in the selection of the Secretary-General.
12. At its fourth through seventh meetings, on 29 March 2006, 6, 19 and 26 April 2006, the Working Group held thematic debates on the following clusters, as

proposed by the Co-Chairs: role and authority of the General Assembly (29 March and 6 April); role of the General Assembly in selecting the Secretary-General (19 April); and working methods and agenda of the General Assembly (26 April).

I) Role and Authority of the General Assembly

13. The Working Group identified issues surrounding the role and authority of the General Assembly as central to efforts to revitalize it. Deep concern was expressed by some regarding the relationship and balance of roles between the Security Council and the General Assembly.
14. The Working Group felt strongly that the relationships between the General Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations should continue to be strengthened. As a general principle, delegations insisted, any approach to addressing the relationship between the principal organs should be one based upon cooperation and the need for balance, and it should respect the roles of the principal organs under the Charter.
- 14bis. Several delegations made the point that the best way of revitalization was the consideration of topics of essential importance to the organization as a whole by the General Assembly and that it was the responsibility of Member States to have the General Assembly seized with such topics.
- 14ter. Several delegations reiterated their views on the need for the General Assembly to convene and organize major thematic debates in order to facilitate broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States
15. The point was also frequently underscored that the role of the General Assembly on matters of peace and security should be reaffirmed, for while it was acknowledged that the Security Council has primary responsibility in this area, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, it was also clearly recalled that that mandate is not exclusive. In this connection, the General Assembly should enhance its examination and discussion of issues of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Charter.
16. Delegations also raised specific points regarding two reports from the Security Council to the General Assembly, namely the annual report of the Security Council and its special subject-oriented reports. Speakers reiterated their request that the former should be more analytical and presented in a timely manner before the commencement of the General Debate. As regards the latter, it was noted that no special subject-oriented reports had yet been submitted or presented by the Council. These would be highly welcome.

17. The need for enhanced complementarity between ECOSOC and the General Assembly was also flagged by a number of speakers, some of whom suggested that this might be achieved in part through a review of ECOSOC's work distribution. Further, delegations expressed the desire that the report of ECOSOC to the Assembly be more analytical and streamlined. They also felt that further effort should be made to avoid overlap between ECOSOC and the Second and Third Committees.
18. On one aspect of strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, a number of delegations encouraged the submission by each outgoing President of a short report on lessons learnt, emphasising the importance of continuity in the transfer from President to President and of acquiring and cementing institutional memory.
19. On the issue of the content and impact of General Assembly resolutions, a number of speakers continued to underscore the need to make resolutions more concise and action-oriented, including by shortening the number of preambular paragraphs. A majority of these speakers also underscored that new resolutions should clearly add value to existing ones.
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21. While a number of delegations upheld the important role that non-governmental organisations and civil society play in enhancing the Assembly's work and outreach, most of them nevertheless underscored that consultation between the General Assembly and other actors should be carried out in accordance with the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure and that the Assembly's intergovernmental nature should be preserved.
22. Some delegations encouraged further raising the visibility of the General Assembly, a few of them specifically supporting the efforts of the Department of Public Information in this endeavour, and some others particularly noting the need to encourage the participation of and coverage by the mass media of developing countries in the Assembly's work.

II) Role of the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General

23. A number of delegations underscored the ‘partnership’ between the Security Council and the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter.
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25. A number of speakers highlighted the relevance of Assembly resolutions 11(1) of 1946 and 51/241 in elaborating the procedures for the selection of the Secretary-General, some advocating an amendment to 11(1) that would call for the Security Council to recommend more than one candidate to the General Assembly.
26. Many delegations addressing this issue expressed the view that the process of selecting the Secretary-General needed to be more transparent and that the relevant provisions in the annex of resolution 51/241 should be taken as the starting point regarding the involvement of the Assembly in the selection process.
27. On the issue of the criteria for and qualities of candidates for the post of Secretary-General, the merits of having standards in place as a guide to selection were appreciated, but many speakers on this point were of the view that such criteria should be limited and general in nature. Additionally, many underlined the importance of Member States being fully aware of the qualifications of candidates, as well as the pressing need for appropriate mechanisms to be devised that would serve this purpose.
28. With regard to the issues of regional rotation and gender equality, many delegations indicated that resolution 51/241 (and particularly its paragraph 59) should be reaffirmed. A number of speakers also suggested that the mandate of future Secretaries General should be limited to a single term, arguing that this would remove any basis for suggestion that the Secretary-General’s conduct could or might be influenced by expectation of re-appointment.
29. Some of those addressing this issue also supported the possibility of a deadline being established by which candidacies for post of Secretary-General should be submitted, believing that this would allow for the building of broad support for a candidate to begin to occur earlier. To ensure a smooth transition between the incoming and outgoing Secretaries-General, however, they felt that the existing provisions of paragraph 61 of the annex of resolution 51/241 are sufficient.

III) Working methods of the General Assembly

30. Many in the Working Group continued to call for a shorter General Assembly agenda. In this regard, the role that political considerations played in implementation and in the choice of items and preparation of resolutions was

underscored. All agreed, nonetheless, that the right of Member States to decide on tabling resolutions must continue to be preserved.

- 30bis. Some delegations indicated that the way in which the General Assembly takes its decisions, specifically the tendency towards the adoption of resolutions without a vote, should be discussed in the context of the revitalization of the General Assembly,
31. A few delegations recalled the request that the consolidated version of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure be made available in all official languages in print and online. Some of these also suggested the role that the Office of Legal Affairs might play in the documentation of procedures and precedents that would lead to the consolidation of best practices, hoping that this possibility might be investigated further.
32. While delegations focusing on the work and revitalization of the Main Committees acknowledged that these Committees themselves should decide on their own agendas, many nonetheless felt that agenda rationalization overall required a strengthened role for the General Committee, which must oversee the distribution of work, and that this role should also be encouraged. Several delegations also highlighted the importance of streamlining the working methods of the United Nations Special Committee on PeaceKeeping Operations. One delegation stated that any such efforts must be made in the context of this Committee.
33. A number of speakers on this issue noted that the General Committee had not made any recommendations on it since the adoption of resolution 58/316. They strongly encouraged it to make proposals on a more regular basis regarding the biennialization, triennialization, clustering, and elimination of agenda items, though they acknowledged that the General Committee should avoid delving into substantive matters. A number of those concerned with this issue also encouraged joint informal debates between the Second and Third Committees.
34. On election procedures, a number of delegations recalled the issue of utilization of optical scanners to expedite counting in elections, as recommended in paragraph 15 of resolution 59/313, urging its continued pursuit.
35. With regard to documentation, some delegations reprised their call for reports to be more concise and analytical.

Conclusion

36. At the conclusion of the 26 April meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the Co-Chairs thanked delegations for their interest and suggestions. They indicated their intention to compile the information, requests, and recommendations that had been provided to them by Member States, as well as their plan to revert to

delegations with their consolidation of these, which would be in the form of recommendations for elements for a draft resolution by the Assembly. These recommendations are attached in the annex that follows.

Annex

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELEMENTS FOR A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY REVITALIZATION

1. *Reaffirming* the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

1bis. *Reaffirming* the authority and strengthening the role of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter,

2. *Reaffirming* its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work, particularly resolutions 59/313, 58/316, and 58/126,

2bis. *Noting*, with appreciation, the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly established by General Assembly resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005,

Cluster 1 – Role and Authority of General Assembly

In the context of further strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly as set out in the Charter of the United Nations,

3. *Reaffirms* the role and the authority of the General Assembly, including on questions related to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations,

4. *Urges* the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC to continue to meet periodically to ensure increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the work programmes of the three principal organs, and for that purpose, also to consider meeting jointly with the Secretary-General. The President of the General Assembly shall inform Member States about the outcome of these meetings,

5. *Encourages* the use of thematic interactive debates on issues of critical importance to the international community in the General Assembly and *invites* the President of the General Assembly to propose themes for such interactive debates, in consultation with Member States with a view to finding action-oriented results.

6. [deleted.]

7. *Invites* the Security Council to further its initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the Assembly with a substantive, analytical and material basis for its consideration, in accordance with the Charter and with resolutions 58/126 and 51/193,

7bis. *Also invites* the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern,

8. *Invites* also ECOSOC to continue to prepare its report to the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, striving to make it more concise and action-oriented, by highlighting the critical areas requiring action by the General Assembly and, as appropriate, by making specific recommendations,

9. *Decides*, in order to strengthen the role and office of the President of the General Assembly, to request the addition of two professional posts to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and to ask that appropriate conference facilities be reserved for that Office's use,

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, at the end of his/her tenure, to provide a report on best practices and lessons learnt for his/her successor,

11. [moved to OP. 32]

12. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to assist the General Assembly in the review of the status of implementation of decisions reached at major United Nations summits and conferences by reviewing and reporting on those within its purview,

13. *Calls* for General Assembly resolutions to be more concise, focused and action-oriented, and that preambular paragraphs in its resolutions should normally be kept to the minimum,

14. *Encourages* enhanced interaction with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and particularly those from developing countries, keeping in mind the intergovernmental nature of the General Assembly and in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly,

15. *Encourages*, where appropriate, the continued cooperation between the General Assembly and national and regional parliaments, particularly through the Interparliamentary Union,

16. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,

to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness the work of the General Assembly,

17. *Urges* the Secretariat to continue its endeavours to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and, toward this end, requests the rearrangement of items in the Journal of the United Nations so that listings of Plenary and other major events of the General Assembly may appear alongside those of the meetings of the Security Council,

17bis. *Encourages* Presidents of the General Assembly to increase their public visibility including through enhanced contacts with representatives of media and civil society thus promoting the role and authority of the General Assembly and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue the practice of providing to the Office of the President of the General Assembly a Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly and an Assistant to the Spokesperson,

Cluster II- Selection of the Secretary-General

18. *Recalls* Article 97 of the Charter, which states that the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council,

19. *Recalls* also GA resolutions 11(1) of 1946 and 51/241, including the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be made more transparent and, in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for that position, for due regard to be given to regional rotation and gender equality and *invites* the Security Council regularly to update the General Assembly on the steps it has taken in this regard,

20. *[condensed into paragraph 19 above.]*

21. *[condensed into paragraph 19 above.]*

22. *Encourages* candidates for the position of Secretary-General to present their candidacy in time to allow them to meet with Member States, for instance, through informal meetings with regional and other groups,

22bis. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene, as required, informal consultations of the General Assembly, to allow candidates for the position of Secretary General to present their views to Member States,

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of candidates for the post of Secretary-General possessing and displaying, inter alia, commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, extensive leadership and diplomatic experience,

Cluster III- Working methods

24. *Encourages*, as and where appropriate, further efforts to rationalize the agenda of the General Assembly, *inter alia* through further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items,

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online, and *requests* the Office of Legal Affairs to make precedents and past practice available in the public domain with respect to rules and practices of the intergovernmental bodies of the organization,

26. *Requests* the Main Committees to consider, as and where appropriate, further clustering and merging agenda items or to reconsider the amount of time allotted to particular agenda items on an annual basis, and *recommends* the Bureaux of the Main Committees to enhance their cooperation, in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly,

27. *Requests* the General Committee to elaborate proposals on joint debates of the Second and Third Committees on relevant interconnected agenda items and *invites* the Second and Third Committee to thoroughly consider such proposals,

28. [deleted.]

29. *Reiterates* its call for the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, whereby the General Committee shall meet periodically throughout each session to review the progress of the General Assembly and its committees and to make recommendations for furthering such progress and minimizing unnecessary duplication,

30. *Requests* an update on its recommendation, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 59/313, regarding consideration of the use of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the modalities thereof to the General Assembly,

31. *Encourages* submission by the Secretariat of more concise and analytical reports and *welcomes* consideration of the possibility of submission of biannual core policy reports in areas of priority to the United Nations, containing references to documentation already provided by United Nations agencies or programmes, strict page limits for documentation to be submitted by Member States, and standard formats for documentation,

32. *(Former OP 11) Requests* the Secretariat to provide an annual chart, for the information of Member States, on the status of implementation on General Assembly resolutions,

32bis. *Calls* for submission of the status report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its current session on the implementation of all resolutions regarding the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 58/126, 58/316 and 59/313,

33. *Decides*, in order to allow for the implementation of relevant resolutions on the revitalization of the General Assembly, to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly in the 63rd session.

Non-Paper on Staff Situation in the Office of the President of the 60th Session of the General Assembly

Reference is made to the annex of the draft Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the General Assembly established by General Assembly resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005. One of the proposed recommendations for elements for a draft resolution on General Assembly revitalization pertains to the strengthening of the role and office of the President of the General Assembly. It is suggested that the General Assembly requests the addition of two professional posts to the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

The purpose of this proposal is to regularize and stabilize the human resource capacity of the Office of the President of the General Assembly for future Presidencies. Although in total 5 new posts have been created in the 58th and the 59th Sessions of the GA, the Office is still dependent on the willingness of Member States to second professional and other staff in order to fulfill its mandate and functions.

The staff situation in the Office of the President of the 60th Session of the General Assembly is as follows (professional posts in **bold**):

Chef de Cabinet	UN-post
Deputy Chef de Cabinet	UN-post
Special Advisor on UN reform	UN-post
Senior Advisor on Management Issues	UN-post
Administrative Assistant	UN-post
Administrative Assistant	UN-post
Web-master	UN-post
Counsellor for Development Issues	Secondment
Counsellor for GA Affairs	Secondment
Counsellor for Human Rights	Secondment
First Secretary for Terrorism, Legal Affairs	Secondment
Third Secretary, Personal Assistant to PGA	Secondment
Special Advisor on NGO Affairs	Secondment
Assistant Attaché	Secondment
Spokesperson	DPI
Assistant to Spokesperson	DPI



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
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413 EAST 51st STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-6613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

30 May 2006

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to the eighth meeting of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Tuesday, 6 June at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

The purpose of the meeting will be to hear comments by delegations on the attached draft report and recommendations for elements for a draft resolution on all clusters of themes which the working group held debates on.

Our aim is to finalise the draft report and the recommendations for elements for a draft resolution as soon as possible after our 6 June meeting. Once adopted by the working group, the report with its recommendations will be submitted to the General Assembly, in accordance with GA resolution 59/313, OP5.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

United Nations

**Report of the Ad Hoc
Working Group on the
revitalization of the General
Assembly established by General
Assembly resolution 59/313 of
12 September 2005**

General Assembly

Official Records

Sixtieth Session

United Nations □ New York, 2006

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Introduction

1. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005, the General Assembly:

“decide[d] to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly” [and]

“decide[d] also that the ad hoc working group shall submit a report with specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session”.
2. This report and the recommendations contained therein are submitted pursuant to that request.
3. In his letter of 29 November 2005, the President of the General Assembly appointed the Ambassadors of Latvia and Yemen to serve as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group and to guide this process.
4. In their letter dated 16 January 2005, in which they invited “all delegations to assist us in identifying ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly”, the Co-Chairs identified three key elements to be dealt with by the Working Group in pursuing its mandate:
 - I) “to review the agenda of the General Assembly, in order to avoid redundancy;
 - II) “to examine the role of the Assembly in light of current political realities, in order to enhance its credibility, authority and visibility;
 - III) “to propose reforms to the working methods of the Assembly, in order to make it more effective and efficient.”
5. The Co-Chairs also stated their intention to assess the impact of previous relevant assembly resolutions and, as far as possible, to promote further implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

Proceedings

6. The Working Group held seven meetings: on 16 February, 3, 16 and 29 March, and 6, 19 and 26 April 2006.
7. At its first, second, and third meetings, on 16 February, 3, 16 and 29 March, the Working Group held a general debate to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly.
8. At the first meeting, on 16 February, several delegations requested information from the Secretariat on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly. In response to this request, and in order to facilitate the work of the Ad hoc Working Group, an informal background note was prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to all Member States before the second meeting on 3 March 2006.
9. At its second meeting, on 3 March, the Director of the General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division presented the informal note to the Ad hoc Working Group and answered questions by Member States. Further, members of the Working Group requested from the Secretariat an informal note on the work of the Main Committees on revitalization, which duly was submitted by the Secretariat in advance of the following meeting on 16 March.
10. At its meeting on 29 March 2006, the Ad Hoc Working Group decided to reverse the order of the last two thematic meetings. Accordingly, after the first two thematic meetings, which focused on the role and authority of the General Assembly, the topic of the third thematic meeting, held on 19 April 2006, was devoted to the role of the General Assembly in the process of selecting the Secretary-General. The topic of the fourth and final thematic meeting, held on 26 April, was devoted to the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly.
11. The President of the General Assembly, who attended the fourth meeting of the Ad hoc working group, delivered an address on the role and the authority of the General Assembly in ongoing United Nations reforms, focusing as well on its impact on the revitalization process and on its role in the selection of the Secretary-General.
12. At its fourth through seventh meetings, on 29 March 2006, 6, 19 and 26 April 2006, the Working Group held thematic debates on the following clusters, as proposed by the Co-Chairs: role and authority of the General Assembly (29

March and 6 April); role of the General Assembly in selecting the Secretary-General (19 April); and working methods and agenda of the General Assembly (26 April).

I) Role and Authority of the General Assembly

13. The Working Group identified issues surrounding the role and authority of the General Assembly as central to efforts to revitalize it. Deep concern was expressed regarding the relationship and balance of roles between the Security Council and the General Assembly.
14. The Working Group felt strongly that the relationships between the General Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations should continue to be strengthened. As a general principle, delegations insisted, any approach to addressing the relationship between the principal organs should be one based upon cooperation and the need for balance.
15. The point was also frequently underscored that the role of the General Assembly on matters of peace and security should be reaffirmed, for while it was acknowledged that the Security Council has primary responsibility in this area, it was also clearly recalled that that mandate is not exclusive. In this connection, the General Assembly should enhance its examination and discussion of issues of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Charter.
16. Delegations also raised specific points regarding two reports from the Security Council to the General Assembly, namely the annual report of the Security Council and its special subject-oriented reports. Speakers reiterated their request that the former should be more analytical and presented in a timely manner before the commencement of the General Debate. As regards the latter, it was noted that no special subject-oriented reports had yet been submitted or presented by the Council.
17. The need for enhanced complementarity between ECOSOC and the General Assembly was also flagged by a number of speakers, some of whom suggested that this might be achieved in part through a review of ECOSOC's work distribution. Further, delegations expressed the desire that the report of ECOSOC to the Assembly be more analytical and streamlined. They also felt that further effort should be made to avoid overlap between ECOSOC and the Second and Third Committees.
18. On one aspect of strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, a number of delegations encouraged the submission by each outgoing President of a short report on lessons learnt, emphasising the importance of continuity in the transfer from President to President and of acquiring and cementing institutional memory.

19. On the issue of the content and impact of General Assembly resolutions, a number of speakers continued to underscore the need to make resolutions more concise and action-oriented, including by shortening the number of preambular paragraphs. A majority of these speakers also underscored that new resolutions should clearly add value to existing ones.
20. On implementation of resolutions, some speakers also raised a possible role for the Secretariat in providing information on the implementation and status of resolutions dealing with the issue. Many agreed that focus and stress should remain on the implementation of the Assembly's resolutions, as this in itself is one of the keys to its revitalization. In this connection, they suggested that obstacles impeding the implementation of resolutions may be identified and possible mechanisms to monitor the implementation of resolutions and mandates should be developed.
21. While a number of delegations upheld the important role that non-governmental organisations and civil society play in enhancing the Assembly's work and outreach, most of them nevertheless underscored that consultation between the General Assembly and other actors should be carried out in accordance with the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure and that the Assembly's intergovernmental nature should be preserved.
22. Some delegations encouraged further raising the visibility of the General Assembly, a few of them specifically supporting the efforts of the Department of Public Information in this endeavour, and some others particularly noting the need to encourage the participation of and coverage by the mass media of developing countries in the Assembly's work.

II) Role of the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General

23. A number of delegations underscored the 'partnership' between the Security Council and the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter.
24. Some of these speakers commented that, even in discussing the issue of the selection of the Secretary-General, the Assembly was in effect revitalizing itself.
25. A number of speakers highlighted the relevance of Assembly resolutions 11(1) of 1946 and 51/241 in elaborating the procedures for the selection of the Secretary-General, some calling for an amendment to 11(1) that would mandate the Security Council to recommend more than one candidate to the General Assembly.
26. Many delegations addressing this issue expressed the view that the process of selecting the Secretary-General needed to be more transparent and that the relevant provisions in the annex of resolution 51/241 should be taken as the

authority and starting point regarding the involvement of the Assembly in the selection process.

27. On the issue of the criteria for and qualities of candidates for the post of Secretary-General, the merits of having standards in place as a guide to selection were appreciated, but many speakers on this point were of the view that such criteria should be limited and general in nature. Additionally, many underlined the importance of Member States being fully aware of the qualifications of candidates, as well as the pressing need for appropriate mechanisms to be devised that would serve this purpose.
28. With regard to the issue of regional rotation, many delegations indicated that resolution 51/241 (and particularly its paragraph 59) should be reaffirmed. A number of speakers also suggested that the mandate of future Secretaries General should be limited to a single term, arguing that this would remove any basis for suggestion that the Secretary-General's conduct could or might be influenced by expectation of re-appointment.
29. Some of those addressing this issue also supported the possibility of a deadline being established by which candidacies for post of Secretary-General should be submitted, believing that this would allow for the building of broad support for a candidate to begin to occur earlier. To ensure a smooth transition between the incoming and outgoing Secretaries-General, however, they felt that the existing provisions of paragraph 61 of the annex of resolution 51/241 are sufficient.

III) Working methods of the General Assembly

30. Many in the Working Group continued to call for a shorter General Assembly agenda. In this regard, the role that political considerations played in implementation and in the choice of items and preparation of resolutions was underscored. All agreed, nonetheless, that the right of Member States to decide on tabling resolutions must continue to be preserved.
31. A few delegations recalled the request that the consolidated version of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure be made available in all official languages in print and online. Some of these also suggested the role that the Office of Legal Affairs might play in the documentation of procedures and precedents that would lead to the consolidation of best practices, hoping that this possibility might be investigated further.
32. While delegations focusing on the work and revitalization of the Main Committees acknowledged that these Committees themselves should decide on their own agendas, many nonetheless felt that agenda rationalization overall required a strengthened role for the General Committee, which must oversee the distribution of work, and that this role should also be encouraged.

33. A number of speakers on this issue noted that the General Committee had not made any recommendations on it since the adoption of resolution 58/316. They strongly encouraged it to make proposals on a more regular basis regarding the biennialization, triennialization, clustering, and elimination of agenda items, though they acknowledged that the General Committee should avoid delving into substantive matters. A number of those concerned with this issue also encouraged joint informal debates between the Second and Third Committees.
34. On election procedures, a number of delegations recalled the issue of utilization of optical scanners to expedite counting in elections, as recommended in paragraph 15 of resolution 59/313, urging its continued pursuit.
35. With regard to documentation, some delegations reprised their call for reports to be more concise and analytical.

Conclusion

36. At the conclusion of the 26 April meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the Co-Chairs thanked delegations for their interest and suggestions. They indicated their intention to compile the information, requests, and recommendations that had been provided to them by Member States, as well as their plan to revert to delegations with their consolidation of these, which would be in the form of recommendations for elements for a draft resolution by the Assembly. These recommendations are attached in the annex that follows.

Annex

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELEMENTS FOR A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY REVITALIZATION 25 MAY 2006

1. *Reaffirming* the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,
2. *Recalling* its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work, particularly resolutions 59/313, 58/316, and 58/126,

Cluster 1 – Role and Authority of General Assembly

3. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly, including on questions related to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 of the Charter of the United Nations,
4. *Urges* the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC to continue to meet periodically to ensure increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the three principal organs, and for that purpose, also to consider meeting jointly with the Secretary-General.
5. *Encourages* the use of thematic interactive debates on current issues in the General Assembly and *invites* the President of the General Assembly to propose themes for such interactive debates, in consultation with Member States.
6. *Underlines* the need for the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC to coordinate the thematic interactive debates in the three organs, so as to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication.
7. *Invites* the Security Council to further its initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the Assembly with a substantive, analytical and material account of its work, in accordance with resolutions 58/126 and 51/193,

8. *Invites* also ECOSOC to continue to prepare its report to the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, striving to make it more concise and action-oriented, by highlighting the critical areas requiring action by the General Assembly and, as appropriate, by making specific recommendations,
9. *Decides*, in order to strengthen the role and office of the President of the General Assembly, to request the addition of four professional posts to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and to ask that appropriate conference facilities be reserved for that Office's use,
10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, at the end of his/her tenure, to prepare and present a report on best practices and lessons learnt for his/her successor,
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide an annual chart on the status of implementation on General Assembly resolutions,
12. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to assist the General Assembly in the review of the status of implementation of decisions reached at major United Nations summits and conferences by reviewing and reporting on those within its purview,
13. *Decides* that General Assembly resolutions should be more concise, focused and action-oriented, and that preambular paragraphs in its resolutions should normally be kept to the minimum,
14. *Encourages* enhanced interaction with the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and particularly those from developing countries, keeping in mind the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations and in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly,
15. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation between the General Assembly and national and regional parliaments, particularly through the Interparliamentary Union,
16. *Appreciates* the work of the Department of Public Information in promoting the work of the General Assembly on issues of importance to the international community and *encourages* the Department, in cooperation with countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of these and other important global issues,
17. *Urges* the Secretariat to continue its endeavours to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and, toward this end, requests the rearrangement of items in the Journal of the United Nations so that listings of Plenary and other major events of the General Assembly may appear alongside those of the meetings of the Security Council,

Cluster II- Selection of the Secretary-General

18. *Recalls* Article 97 of the Charter, which states that the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council,
19. *Recalls* also GA resolutions 11 (1) of 1946 and 51/241,
20. *Reaffirms* specifically paragraph 56 of resolution 51/241 on the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be made more transparent,
21. *Reiterates* paragraph 59 of resolution 51/241, which states that, in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for the post of Secretary-General, due regard shall continue to be given to regional rotation and shall also be given to gender equality,
22. *Encourages* candidates for the position of Secretary-General to present their candidacy at least six months prior to the assumption of the post, to allow for informal meetings with regional and other groups,
23. *Emphasizes* the importance of candidates for the post of Secretary-General possessing and displaying, *inter alia*, commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and extensive leadership and diplomatic experience,

Cluster III- Working methods

24. *Encourages*, as and where appropriate, further efforts to shorten the agenda of the General Assembly, *inter alia* through further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items,
25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online.
26. *Requests* the Main Committees to consider further clustering and merging agenda items or to reconsider the amount of time allotted to particular agenda items on an annual basis,
27. *Requests* the Second and Third Committees to continue to consider holding joint informal debates on relevant interconnected agenda items,
28. *Suggests* shortening the spring session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, thereby permitting additional short sessions of the Special Committee which could be dedicated to in-depth discussions of substantive peacekeeping issues, and to reflection on the relationship between the Special Committee and the Secretariat and the Fifth Committee,

29. *Reiterates* its call for the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, whereby the General Committee shall meet regularly throughout the session with the bureaux of the Main Committees to review the progress of the work of the Main Committees and to make recommendations for achieving furthering such progress and for minimizing duplication,

30. *Requests* an update on its recommendation, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 59/313, regarding consideration of the use of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the modalities thereof to the General Assembly,

31. *Encourages* submission by the Secretariat of more concise and analytical reports and *welcomes* consideration of the possibility of submission of biannual core policy reports in areas of priority to the United Nations, containing references to documentation already provided by United Nations agencies or programmes, strict page limits for documentation to be submitted by Member States, and standard formats for documentation,

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on all aspects of the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.



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REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

413 EAST 51st STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-6613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

20 April 2006

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to the seventh meeting (fourth thematic meeting) of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Wednesday, 26 April at 10 a.m. in the Ecosoc Chamber.

As already indicated in our letter of 22 March, our fourth and final thematic meeting will focus on the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly. Delegations may wish to make comments, for example, on the agenda of the General Assembly and the Main Committees, on the role of the General Committee, on current election procedures and on issues pertaining to documentation.

We hope that the background note on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly, circulated on 2 March, and the note on the work of the Main Committees on revitalization, circulated on 13 March, will be useful in our deliberations on this theme.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalne
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



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REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

413 EAST 51st STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-9613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
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12 April 2006

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to the sixth meeting (third thematic meeting) of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Wednesday, 19 April at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

As already indicated in our letter of 3 April, our third thematic meeting will focus on the role of the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary General. This role is guided *inter alia* by the UN Charter (art 97), General Assembly resolution 11 (I) of 1946 and the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

In its deliberations on this issue, the ad hoc working group may also wish to build on earlier work as reflected in GA resolution 51/241, section XIX, paragraphs 56-61.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalne
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-6613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

3 April 2006

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to the fifth meeting (second thematic meeting) of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Thursday, 6 April at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

As foreseen in the agenda and timetable that we circulated on 22 March, this meeting will focus on the substance of General Assembly debates and resolutions and the relevance of the General Assembly's work to the world community. You may wish to comment on issues that *inter alia* pertain to thematic debates, the content and impact of General Assembly resolutions, the interaction of the General Assembly with relevant outside actors and the visibility of the General Assembly's work.

Looking further ahead, in response to numerous interventions at the meeting of the working group on 29 March, we have decided to reverse the order of the last two thematic meetings.

Our third thematic meeting, on the role of the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary General, will take place on Wednesday, 19 April at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

Our fourth and final thematic meeting, on the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly, will take place on Wednesday, 26 April at 10 a.m. (venue to be confirmed).

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalne
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



STATEMENT BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON**

AT

**THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON
REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THEMATIC MEETING ON THE ROLE AND
AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK
29 MARCH 2006**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to join this ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly today. You have already had three meetings devoted to a general debate and will now move to consider specific themes. I am grateful to the Co-Chairs – Ambassador Silkalna of Latvia and Ambassador Alsaïdi of Yemen – for their leadership, and to all of you for your active participation and your valuable contributions to this work.

As I have stated previously, the world has never needed a strong United Nations and effective multilateralism more than it needs it today. Since the 2005 World Summit in September last year, we have been engaged in a major reform effort to make the United Nations better fit to meet the current global challenges. As the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, the General Assembly has a central role to play.

It is my firm conviction that progress in the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome through our common efforts will also contribute to the revitalization of the General Assembly – constituting revitalization in action.

In this regard, we have already made several achievements: we have created the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); we have established the Peacebuilding Commission; we have set up an Ethics Office; and most recently, we have created the Human Rights Council. Our next priorities will be Development and ECOSOC reform, Secretariat and management reform

and the Peacebuilding Commission, where we must quickly complete our unfinished work to constitute the Organizational Committee.

At the same time, of course, I consider General Assembly revitalization a subject in its own right. And it has been, for quite some time. Already on 11 December 1948 – incidentally the day after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted – the General Assembly decided to include an additional item in the agenda of the third session:

“Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to consider methods and procedures which would enable the General Assembly to discharge its functions more effectively and expeditiously” (item proposed by Denmark, Norway and Sweden).

You thus have a proud tradition to build on!

While we all agree on the need for revitalization, there are different views on how we can best achieve this goal. Some of you would like to see a more streamlined agenda and rationalization of the Assembly’s working methods; others among you also advocate for more substantive reinforcement related to the role and authority of the Assembly. I believe that these two approaches are complementary and not mutually exclusive.

One case in point is the concept of interactive thematic debates, as called for in GA resolution 59/313. The purpose of the thematic debates would be to “establish broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States”. In other words, it is a mechanism by which

the General Assembly would ensure its relevance to the realities of the world and strengthen its role and its “message” on that particular issue. However, in order to ensure interactivity, we also need to think about how we go about organizing our work to make it as effective, timely and action-oriented as possible.

As you know, plans are currently underway for a thematic debate on Human Resources, Health and Development later this spring. I will revert to you regarding the timing and arrangement for this meeting.

Another issue in your deliberations relates to the visibility of the work of the General Assembly in the wider public arena. How do we make the outcomes more known – and more relevant – to the everyday life of the ordinary citizens of the Member States? Here, the Assembly could build on the efforts of previous sessions to strengthen the outreach and dissemination of the Assembly’s work.

Many delegations have also stressed that they would like to see greater participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and national parliaments in the work of the Assembly. Here the Assembly could build on the recommendations emanating from the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations of 2004, the so called Cardoso-report. I believe that this matter could also be addressed in the context of this working group – and I understand that it will be the subject-matter of a forthcoming thematic meeting.

Many of you have also raised the issue of the role of the Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General of the Organization. I note that also on this subject-matter the Co-Chairs intend to hold a separate meeting later this spring. I would like to underline that also here the Assembly can already build on earlier work, namely resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Today, your meeting will focus on the specific theme of the role and authority of the General Assembly. You will touch upon fundamental issues regarding the powers and functions of the General Assembly. It will involve the relationship between the principal organs, in particular between the General Assembly and the Security Council. I believe that it is very useful for us to reflect on these matters from time to time. Let me make a few remarks, before you start your discussions.

As the President of the General Assembly, I am particularly aware and concerned about the role and authority of the General Assembly. I urge all of you to stand up for this principal organ. We must take confidence and encouragement in what we have achieved and can achieve, and be proud of our work. We should demonstrate through our actions that we can reach agreement on matters of global concern. The adoption of our resolutions on the Peacebuilding Commission and most recently on the Human Rights Council illustrates this point.

As we go about the business of the United Nations, we must respect the function and powers of each principal organ, in accordance with the UN

Charter. However, we should not lose sight of the issue at hand and what it is that we want to achieve. At all times, we should place the problem in the center, and then organize our work around it to find a solution, and not the other way around.

We should make every effort to maintain the balance between the principal organs, as each organ has a very specific role to play. We should always ensure that matters that clearly belong to the purview of one principal organ will be handled by this organ. The relationship between the principal organs should, however, not be reduced to a zero-sum game. In certain cases, a particular matter may have several dimensions, and may actually stand to gain from a many-sided consideration.

I believe that we stand to gain from a better coherence, coordination and complementarity between the General Assembly and the other principal organs. As recommended in GA resolution 58/126, I have held regular bilateral meetings with the President of the Security Council as well as regular trilateral meetings with the Presidents of the Security Council and ECOSOC. The bilateral meetings have been held on a monthly basis, and the latest trilateral meeting at the beginning of this month. I will continue to have such meetings during my Presidency.

I also believe it would be worthwhile to further explore how to involve the General Committee to a greater extent in the revitalization efforts, as recommended in GA resolutions 58/126 and 58/316. The General Committee has met on several occasions during the sixtieth session, both in formal and informal meetings, to advise on how the General Assembly

should organize and manage its work. I have found these meetings very useful.

Let me conclude with a few words regarding the role of the President of the General Assembly, as this is also on the agenda for your discussion today. I know from my own experience during the last six months, that it can be a very demanding job and that it comes with high expectations attached. A strengthened role of the President of General Assembly presupposes a strong Office of the President of the GA and strong support by the Secretariat staff. I am very grateful for the additional resources that were made available to the office through GA resolutions 58/126 and 59/313. However, any additional role foreseen for the President would also require further resources.

I believe that this working group provides a very good opportunity and venue to discuss the whole range of issues concerning the revitalization of the General Assembly, and I am confident that you will continue to have fruitful deliberations under the Co-Chairmanship of Ambassador Silkalna and Ambassador Alsaïdi. I also look forward to the report with recommendations that you will submit to the General Assembly later this spring.

I wish you all success in your important deliberations.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

413 EAST 51ST STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-9613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

22 March 2006

Excellency,

With our last meeting on 16 March, we have completed the general debate-segment of the work in the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly. As Co-Chairs we are grateful to you for your active participation and inputs so far. As the next step, we propose that we will now proceed to discuss clusters of themes in a series of four meetings.

Please find attached a broad outline of the agenda and the tentative timetable for the forthcoming thematic meetings of the working group. Based on the input received from Member States during the general debate, we propose that two meetings will be devoted to matters related to the role and authority of the General Assembly, one meeting to the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly, and one meeting to the role of the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General. We have also indicated some specific matters that may be raised during each thematic meeting. While inspired by your contributions, the listings are by no means exhaustive.

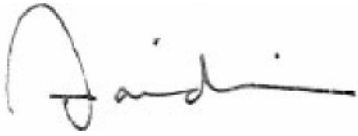
Following the attached outline, we have the honour to invite you to the fourth (and the first thematic) meeting of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Wednesday, 29 March at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

The overall theme will be the role and authority of the General Assembly. You may wish to address issues pertaining *inter alia* to the relationship between the General Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations, and measures to strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly. We would also encourage you to put forward concrete proposals for the consideration of the working group.

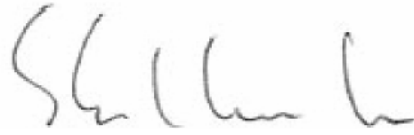
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New York

The President of the General Assembly, Mr Jan Eliasson, has agreed to join us for the first part of the meeting on 29 March and he will also make a short address.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alsaïdi', with a large initial 'A'.

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Silkalna', with a large initial 'S'.

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna
Co-Chair

22 MARCH 2006
CO-CHAIRS' OUTLINE OF THEMATIC MEETINGS FOR
THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON REVITALIZATION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For thematic meeting Nr.1 (29 March 2006)

I) Role and Authority of the General Assembly

A. The relationship between the GA and other organs of the United Nations system

How to ensure increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (res 58/126)?

How to encourage periodical subject-oriented, more analytical reports from the Security Council to the General Assembly (res 58/126)?

B. The Presidency of the GA

How to further strengthen the Office of the President of the General Assembly? By extending the term of the President of the GA and/or electing the President of GA earlier ?

As the role of the President of the General Assembly is growing, would his office need to be strengthened and given stronger support by the Secretariat?

For thematic meeting Nr.2 (6 April 2006)

C. Substance of debates and resolutions, relevance of GA work

Could the General Assembly effectively revitalize itself by focusing thematically on current issue of global relevance – such as water, disaster relief, global epidemics etc. (discussion of such issues can take place after December in the resumed part of the session)?

How could the General Assembly play a more robust role in the implementation of major UN world summit decisions (MDGs) etc?

How to ensure that the General Assembly will adopt more concise, focused and action-oriented resolutions with discernible impact on the world?

In what ways could the General Assembly consider greater participation by and interaction with NGOs and other key players (private sector, parliaments etc.) in its work?

How can the work of the General Assembly be made more visible to the public?

For thematic meeting Nr.3 (date to be announced)

II) Working Methods and Agenda of the General Assembly

A. Agenda

How do we go about re-examining and streamlining the agenda of the General Assembly in order to avoid redundancy and ease the burden on small delegations?

Is a mechanism to monitor implementation of GA resolutions necessary? Would an annual chart on implementation be advisable?

How can we avoid the apparent duplication of work between the plenary and the Main committees?

B. Rationalization of the work of Main Committees

In order to achieve a better balance of workload between the Main Committees, should there be a reassignment of items from one committee to another?

Should the Main Committees be asked to reconsider the time allotted to the consideration of given items?

Could further cluster and/or eliminating of items be considered?

C. Role of the General Committee

What role may the General Committee play in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work?

What role may the General Committee play in reviewing the agenda of the General Assembly?

D. Elections

Do we need to rethink the process of elections in the General Assembly, particularly elections of judges to various international tribunals?

What is the status of implementation of the recommendation to consider the use of optical scanners during elections in the General Assembly?

E. Documentation

How do we ensure that the amount of documentation, including the number of reports asked of the Secretary-General will be reduced?

Should we consider a rearrangement in the U.N. Daily Journal so that meetings of the General Assembly are listed first?

For thematic meeting Nr.4 (date to be announced)

III) Role of GA in Election of the Secretary-General

How do we revitalize the role of the General Assembly in this respect?



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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

13 March 2006

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to the third meeting of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Thursday, 16 March at 10am in the ECOSOC Chamber.

A number of delegations have communicated to us their wish to continue the general debate before consideration of specific themes. At our last meeting on 3 March, several delegations also expressed the need for more time to reflect and formulate reactions on the background note on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly, circulated on 2 March.

As agreed at our 3 March meeting, we are now also circulating a note by the Secretariat on the work of the Main Committees on revitalization. We hope that you will find this material, together with the background note of 2 March, useful in our further deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

For information

WORK OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES ON REVITALIZATION

Note by the Secretariat

The present note has been prepared in response to the request by Member States at the second meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, on 3 March 2006.

In section C, entitled “Practices and working methods of the Main Committees”, comprising of paragraph 3 of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, it is decided that:

- (a) Each Main Committee shall give specific attention to the rationalization of their future agendas by the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items, and make recommendations to the plenary Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005;
- (b) Each Main Committee shall adopt a provisional programme of work at the end of the session for the next session to help them better to plan, prepare and organize and, in this context, review the related documentation requirements;
- (c) The practice of interactive debates and panel discussions shall be utilized or expanded, as appropriate, by all Main Committees so as to enhance informal, in-depth discussions and to bring together experts from various fields without prejudicing the progress of the substantive work of the Main Committees;
- (d) The practice of “question time” shall be introduced, as appropriate, in all Main Committees to enable a dynamic and candid exchange with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General and special rapporteurs;
- (e) The web sites of the Main Committees shall be enhanced and thereafter regularly updated and their content maintained by the secretariats of the Main Committees;
- (f) The bureaux-elect of the Main Committees shall meet immediately after their election in order to discuss the organization and division of their work;
- (g) With a view to ensuring the continuity and the effective organization of their work, the incoming bureaux of the Main Committees shall, no later than two weeks after their election, meet with the outgoing bureaux in order to consult on and review issues relating to the efficient functioning of the Main Committees;
- (h) Prior to the opening of each session, informal briefings of each Main Committee shall be convened to discuss the organization of work.

In implementing resolution 58/316, the Main Committees, in early 2005, have provided to the 59th session of the Assembly either by letter to the President of the session, as conference room papers or as resolution of the Assembly, their observations and recommendations on revitalization, particularly concerning the rationalization of agenda items and the working methods of their Committees. Some Committees also made comments on draft resolutions and documentation. Consideration of those proposals did not take place during the 59th session due to the intense preparations for the three-day high-level plenary meetings of the Assembly for the follow-up to the Millennium Summit.

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Since then, a number of the proposals concerning agenda items have been put into effect through the adoption of resolutions under the items. Some proposals on the working method of the Committee did not require formal decisions by the Assembly and have been put to practice by the Committees as part of the programme of their work.

At the 60th session, the Main Committees were also allocated the item on “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly” for the sole purpose of consideration and adoption of their provisional programme of work for the 61st session. All Committees except the Fifth Committee (which has not yet finished its work) have done so.

This note consists of two parts. Part I provides a brief overview of measures taken by the Main Committees in implementation of section C of resolution 58/316 since the adoption of the resolution. Part II contains the proposals by the Main Committees made during the 59th session and the status of implementation so far of the proposals. The annex at the end of the note gives a quick reference on the source of the proposals and recent action.

I. Overview of the work of the Main Committees in implementation of section C, paragraph 3 (a) to (h) of Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004

FIRST COMMITTEE

Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)

59GA - The First Committee adopted on 5 November 2004 a resolution on improving the effectiveness of the methods of its work of the First Committee (document A/C.1/59/L.60), which was adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2004 (see document A/RES/59/95). Among other things, this resolution invited Member States to consider the biennialization or triennialization of the agenda items discussed in the First Committee, on a voluntary basis, and particularly when no specific action was required to be taken for implementation.

60GA - The periods of work have been combined: the general debate is shorter; thematic discussions and introduction of resolutions were put together; and as the third stage, action on resolutions.

Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)

59GA - The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 60th session which was circulated to all Member States in a report of the Secretary-General (document A/59/860).

60GA - The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 61st session on 1st November 2005, adopted by the General Assembly on 16 November 2005 (document A/60/524)

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Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)

The First Committee always has a well-established practice of interactive debates, especially during the week of its thematic discussions of the session.

60GA - the committee has improved this practice.

Question time (para. 3d)

For both the 59th and 60th sessions, the Committee held question times with high-level representatives of various disarmament bodies, including the President of the Conference on Disarmament, Chairman of the UN Disarmament Commission and others, invited by the Chairman of the Committee.

Web site (para. 3e)

During both 59th and 60th sessions, the Committee continued to update the content on its web site.

Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after election (para. 3f)

For both the 59th and 60th sessions, the Bureau-elect met immediately after election. For the 60th session, the members of the Bureau-elect met at the end of June 2005.

Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)

60GA - The incoming bureau met once in a working lunch.

Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)

59 GA - The Committee had some informal briefing before the opening of session.

60GA - The Committee didn't have informal briefings, but held on 28 September 2005 a formal session, called Organizational meeting of the First Committee.

FOURTH COMMITTEE

Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)

59GA - In his letter of 11 March 2005 to the President of the General Assembly, the Chairman proposed a number of recommendations on the allocation and re-allocation of items (See Part II for details).

60GA – The recommendations of the 59th session were reintroduced by the Fourth Committee in its report (A/60/525) for consideration and decision by the Assembly.

Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)

59GA - By its decision 60/250 of 20 September 2005, the General Assembly adopted the Committee's programme of work for the 60th session.

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60GA - The provisional programme of work for the 61st session was submitted by the Committee to the General Assembly (A/60/525, Annex I). By its decision of 8 December 2005, the General Assembly took note of the Committee's report containing the provisional programme of work for the 61st session.

Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)

59GA and 60GA - Interactive debates have been held especially for meetings on 3 agenda items: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspect; Questions relating to information; International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In some other cases, the meetings were prepared to be interactive but the technical nature of the agenda item - for example on 'Effects on atomic radiation' - could not allow the debates to be really interactive. Few or no questions were asked.

Question time (para. 3d)

59GA - It has been used for these two agenda items: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspect; Questions relating to information.

60 GA - It has been expanded to all agenda items except the first one (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and people).

Web site (para. 3e)

60GA - One new element has been added: the informal notice board, which aim to inform delegations about any changes (for example on program of work or procedural matters) that can occur during the session. Between the 13 October 2005 and the 14 November 2005, more than 1000 thousand hits on the page were recorded.

Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after election (para. 3f) and Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)

60 GA - The Bureau-elect met on 14 July 2005 and 19 July 2005. In both meetings, the incoming bureau met with outgoing bureau.

Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h).

59GA and 60GA - It has been done during the Organizational meeting.

SECOND COMMITTEE

Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)

59GA - The Committee did not take any decisions on the rationalization of its agenda.

60GA - The Committee adopted resolutions which led to the biennialization of two agenda items:

1. Women in development; and
2. United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

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Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)

59GA - The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 60th session which was circulated to all Member States in a report of the Secretary-General (document A/59/860).

60GA - The provisional programme of work for the 61st session was adopted by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the General Assembly as a decision contained in the Committee's report (A/60/497, para. 5). By its decision 60/549 of 22 December 2005, the General Assembly adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work.

Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)

59GA - The Committee held panel discussions on the following issues:

- Development and conflict.
- The fortune at the bottom of the pyramid.
- The social dimension of globalization.
- Trade and development.
- Forging coherence to achieve the MDGs in the context of Globalization.
- United Nations Development Cooperation: Reforms, resources and results.
- United Nations Development Cooperation: Coordination, Participation and Effectiveness.
- Millennium Project

60GA- The Committee held panel discussions on the following issues:

- In search of prosperity: A view on national growth strategies.
- External debt relief and the achievement of the MDGs: Challenges and opportunities.
- Outcome of multi-stakeholder consultations on "Systematic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development".
- World Bank briefing on the 2006 World Development Report (Equality and Development).
- Outcome of multi-stakeholder consultations on:
 - (a) "Public-private partnerships in mobilizing resources for development" and
 - (b) "Improving the climate for private investment".
- Natural disasters – ISDR.
- Inequality predicament.
- Building inclusive financial sectors: Microcredit and eradication of poverty.
- UNAIDS Global Task Team: A model for reform of UN operational activities.
- Sustainable development: Energy issues.

/...

- Remittances.
- Global partnership: The role of the private sector in achieving the MDGs.

Question time (para. 3d)

During both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Committee held a “question time” for each agenda item

Web site (para. 3e)

As of the fifty-ninth session, the Committee’s website has been enhanced by making the presentation of the website and the information contained therein user-friendly. Also the content of the website has improved with the provision for more pertinent, detailed and latest information.

Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after their election (para. 3f)

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Bureau-elect had a meeting after their election.

Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the incoming bureau, after their election, did meet with the outgoing bureau.

Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Committee did hold informal briefing prior to the opening of the session.

THIRD COMMITTEE

Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)

59GA - The Committee put forward a number of recommendations to biennialize, cluster and merger the agenda items. (See Part II for details).

60GA - Most of the recommendations made by the Chairman at the fifty-ninth session were confirmed in the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly during the sixtieth session. Hence, the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-first session includes most of the recommendations.

Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)

59GA - The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 60th session which was circulated to all Member States in a report of the Secretary-General (document A/59/860).

/...

60GA - The provisional programme of work for the 61st session was adopted by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the General Assembly as a decision contained in the Committee's report (A/60/512, para. 6). By its decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005, the General Assembly adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work.

Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)

59GA - The Committee did not hold any panel discussions during the fifty-ninth session.

60GA - The Committee held one panel discussion, on 11 October 2005, on the topic "Role of women in peacebuilding". The Committee also held a joint meeting with the Second Committee, on 8 November 2005, on the topic "International year of Microcredit".

Question time (para. 3d)

During both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Committee held a "question time" for each agenda item

Web site (para. 3e)

As of the fifty-ninth session, the Committee's website has been enhanced by making the presentation of the website and the information contained therein user-friendly. Also the content of the website has improved with the provision for more pertinent, detailed and latest information.

Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after their election (para. 3f)

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Bureau-elect had a meeting after their election.

Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)

Meeting did not need to take place for both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions.

Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Committee did hold informal briefing prior to the opening of the session.

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)

The Fifth Committee, in a letter dated 30 March 2005 addressed to the President of the President of the General Assembly, informed that the Committee, having examined its agenda, did not identify any agenda items in respect of which there was general agreement that it would be desirable to alter existing practice insofar as the annual, biennial, triennial, quadrennial or quinquennial consideration of the Committee's agenda items is concerned. The Fifth Committee has not yet considered this question at its 60th session.

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Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)

In the same letter, the Fifth Committee informed that owing to the fluid nature of its work and the last minute addition of urgent issues, the presentation of a programme of work some months in advance of the session is of very little value and that it would be helpful to have an understanding that this requirement will not be applied in the case of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee has not yet considered this question at its 60th session.

Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)

The Committee has a well-established practice of interactive debates. It holds many informal consultations and “informal informals” on an interactive basis.

Question time (para. 3d)

Question times with heads of departments and offices are held during the session on a particular agenda items and on all reports.

Web site (para. 3e)

The enhanced and regularly updated web-site is a much appreciated tool used by delegations in preparation of all the Committee meetings.

Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after election (para. 3f)

The bureau for the 60th session had not been fully constituted until September 2005.

Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)

Exchanges take place between the bureaus with a view to ensuring the continuity and the effective organization of the Committee’s work. The provision, however, could not be fully implemented for the same reason as 3 (f) above as well as due to the fact that the Committee met until September.

Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)

Informal briefings take place during the main and resumed sessions.

SIXTH COMMITTEE

Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)

59GA - In his letter of 7 March 2005 to the President of the General Assembly, the Chairman informed that the Committee has already biennialized certain agenda items. Those measures were confirmed in the relevant resolutions adopted during the fifty-ninth session. No new items have been proposed for further biennialization.

60GA - The agenda for the 60th and subsequent sessions consists of items already previously biennialized.

/...

Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)

59GA – The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 60th session which was circulated to all Member States in a report of the Secretary-General (document A/59/860).

60GA – The provisional programme of work for the 61st session was adopted by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the Assembly as a decision contained in the Committee's report (A/60/523, para. 5). By its decision 60/513 of 8 December 2005, the Assembly adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work.

Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)

59GA – The Committee did not hold any interactive debates or panel discussions.

60GA – The Committee held one interactive dialogue on “Effects of armed conflict on treaties” in connection with the consideration of agenda item 80 entitled, “Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-seventh session”.

Question time (para. 3d)

59GA – The Committee devoted one meeting to question time on the topic “the rule of law”.

60GA – The Committee did not hold any question time.

Web site (para. 3e)

During both 59th and 60th sessions, the Committee continued to update the content on its web site, including placing the provisional programme of work on its web site and made it more user friendly in its format.

Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after election (para. 3f)

59GA – The Bureau-elect met on 28 September 2004.

60GA – The Bureau-elect met on 3 October 2005 upon the election of the last member.

Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)

The meetings did not take place for both the 59th and 60th sessions. as the Committee did not see the need for both bureaus to meet.

Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)

The Committee did not hold any briefings for both the 59th and 60th sessions but met in informal consultations before the opening of the respective sessions.

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II. Proposals submitted by the Main Committees during the 59th session of the General Assembly and the status of their implementation

A. Rationalization of agenda

FIRST COMMITTEE

The First Committee decided to recommend the ordering of the items and sub-items allocated to it in seven clusters or broad topic areas:

1. Nuclear Weapons
2. Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
3. Outer Space (disarmament aspects)
4. Conventional Weapons
5. Regional disarmament and security
6. Other disarmament measures and international security
7. Disarmament machinery

(Has been implemented for the first time at the 60th session as reflected in the organization of the Committee's work programme)

FOURTH COMMITTEE

The Fourth Committee agreed that the GA should consider the following:

- Allocating some items of a predominantly and special political character from the Plenary to the Fourth Committee. The following items should be considered in this context:
 - Prevention of armed conflict
 - Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
- Allocating country-specific items of a predominantly political nature to the Fourth Committee after consultations with the co-sponsors of resolutions pertaining to these items.
- Relocating the item "Assistance in mine action" to another forum.
- Relocating the item "Effects of atomic radiation"; should the item stay on the agenda of the Fourth Committee, the resolution on this item should be biannualized, containing a provision which would allow the Committee to continue to meet annually.

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(These proposals have been reintroduced at the 60th session in Annex II of the Committee's report (A/60/525) and are pending consideration and decision by the General Assembly.)

SECOND COMMITTEE

The Second Committee did not take any decisions on the rationalization of its agenda but acknowledged that "Member States could consider continuing the discussions on issues relevant to the review of the agenda" (see paragraph (a) of A/C.2/59/CRP.2/Rev.1).

(No action required. See Part I relating to para. 3(a) for the subsequent biennialization of two agenda items.)

THIRD COMMITTEE

The Third Committee decided that:

1. The items "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" and "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" shall be merged into one new item as follows:

Item: Social Development:

- (a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;
- (b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;
- (c) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all;
- (d) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing;

(Implemented – incorporated into the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61st session which was adopted by General Assembly in decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005)

2. The sub-item "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" shall continue to be considered on a biennial basis. **(Implemented – as reflected in resolution 59/149 under the item)**

/...

3. The items “Crime prevention and criminal justice” and “International drug control”, while remaining separate, shall continue to be considered on a biennial basis. **(To be implemented by Member States in the submission of relevant draft resolutions)**

4. The items “Advancement of women” and “Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”” be merged into one new agenda item, as follows:

Item: Advancement of women:

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

(Implemented – incorporated into the Committee’s provisional programme of work for the 61st session which was adopted by General Assembly in decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005)

5. The item “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions” shall continue to be considered individually. **(Has been implemented from previous to the 58th session)**

6. The item “Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children”, normally considered in the plenary of the GA, and the item “Promotion and protection of the rights of children” shall be merged into one new item, as follows:

Item: Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

(a) Follow-up to the **outcome of the** special session on children;

(Implemented – incorporated into the Committee’s provisional programme of work for the 61st session adopted by General Assembly in decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005, with a slight revision to the title of the sub-item)

7. The item “Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1995-2004” shall be renamed “Indigenous issues”. **(Implemented – as reflected in General Assembly resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004)**

8. The item “Elimination of racism and racial discrimination” and its sub-item “Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action” shall continue to be considered as one item, as follows:

/...

Item: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:

- (a) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(Has been implemented from previous to the 58th session)

9. The sub-items “Implementation of human rights instruments”, “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms”, “Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives”, “Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”, “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights” shall be merge into one new agenda item. as follows:

Item: Protection and promotion of human rights:

- (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
- (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(Implemented – incorporated into the Committee’s provisional programme of work for the 61st session which was adopted by General Assembly in decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005)

10. The item “Global road safety crisis” should be allocated to the plenary or to another Main Committee. **(To be implemented - pending consideration and decision by the General Assembly)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

The Fifth Committee, (letter of 30 Mar. 2005 to the President of the General Assembly), informed that the Committee, having examined its agenda, did not identify any agenda items in respect of which there was general agreement that it would be desirable to alter existing practice insofar as the annual, biennial, triennial, quadrennial or quinquennial consideration of the Committee’s agenda items is concerned. **(No additional action has been taken by the Committee)**

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SIXTH COMMITTEE

The Sixth Committee (letter of 7 March 2005 to the President of the General Assembly), informed that: “Some time ago, the Sixth Committee took measures aimed at biennializing certain agenda items. Those measures were confirmed by the relevant resolutions adopted during the fifty-ninth session”. **(No additional action has been taken by the Committee.)**

B. Working methods

FIRST COMMITTEE

Reference: Resolution 59/95:

...

2. *Also invites* Member States to continue to hold interactive debates based on a programme and format elaborated through informal consultations between the Bureau and Member States in advance of each First Committee session; **(Implemented - See Part I)**

3. *Further invites* Member States to submit draft resolutions in a more concise, focused and action-oriented manner and, where practical, to consider the possibility of submitting draft decisions; **(To be implemented by Member States)**

4. *Recommends* that the respective sponsors of draft resolutions hold informal consultations, both before and during First Committee meetings, with the participation of all interested Member States for furthering discussions on draft resolutions already submitted or yet to be submitted to the Committee; **(To be implemented by Member States)**

5. *Encourages* Member States to introduce draft resolutions on related or complementary issues to find commonalities in the language and purpose of those draft resolutions, and invites Member States to consider pursuing mergers of such texts through consultations with all sponsors; **(To be implemented by Member States)**

6. *Also encourages* Member States, in particular those that present any draft resolution, to follow up on the agreed resolution in order to contribute to the achievement of the objective of such resolution; **(To be implemented by Member States)**

7. *Encourages* the First Committee to introduce presentations of, and focus discussions on, reports on the work of expert groups, the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters initiated by the Committee; **(Implemented on a continuous basis by the Secretariat)**

/...

9. *Requests* the First Committee, in the light of the growing interconnectedness of issues before the General Assembly, to explore the forms of mutual cooperation with other Main Committees; **(Implemented by the Committee on an ongoing basis)**

10. *Decides* to develop further, within existing resources, the electronic support for the work of the First Committee, in particular through the existing web sites;
(Implemented - see Part I)

FOURTH COMMITTEE

The Committee agrees:

- The number of meetings on the item “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space” should be reduced from four to three. **(Implemented by the Committee as reflected in its programme of work)**
- It should request the Special Committee to examine possibilities to streamline its work and present concrete proposals for further consideration by the Fourth Committee regarding the item “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations”. **(To be implemented – this proposal will need to be forwarded to the Special Committee by the Assembly)**
- Greater use should be made of interactive debates, panel discussions and question time with representatives from the Secretariat, experts and other stakeholders. **(Implemented – see Part I relating to para. 3(c) and 3 (d))**
- The debate concerning the item “Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects” should be divided by chapters according to the reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping. In this context, special attention should be given to the subject of Peace-building in the context of addressing post-conflict situations. **(Not implemented - Practically, the report of the Special Committee is considered as a whole, not divided into chapters.)**
- Regarding the item “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, representatives of COPUOS should give an interactive presentation on its work at the beginning of the first meeting, followed by Q&A. **(Implemented as of the 60th session.)**
- The items “Question relating to information” and “UNRWA” should also contain a Q&A period . **(Implemented – see Part I relating to para. 3(d))**

/...

SECOND COMMITTEE

Reference: A/C.2/59/CRP.2/Rev.1:

1. Efforts to enhance the work of the Second Committee should be combined with the objective of reaching consensus, which has traditionally been the guiding principle of its work. In efforts to reform the Committee's methods of work it is important that the quality of the resolutions adopted be preserved. The final outcomes need to be meaningful and add value to the issues under consideration. Discussions and events that are linked to the work of the Committee should contribute to a broader understanding and consideration of the issues and thereby could enrich the work of the Committee. It is suggested that the practice be maintained of allocating enough time, after the formal consideration of each cluster of the programme work, to allow delegations to engage in negotiations, if required, in order to approve the draft resolutions on a rolling basis. The presentation on time of draft resolutions is fundamental to the effective work of the Committee. However, delegations may need more time to finish negotiations. The commitment to present draft resolutions and complete negotiations by the deadlines should be respected. In this spirit, it is proposed that:

- (a) If required, more time be allocated for negotiations after the formal consideration of a cluster;
- (b) In the organization of work, different dates be fixed to adopt resolutions.

(Has been implemented by the Second Committee)

2. If the need arises, and within existing resources, prior to the adoption of draft resolutions the Chairman may wish to schedule formal informals. **(Implemented by the Second Committee)**

3. In order to ensure the timely consideration of the sub-items in the "Macroeconomic policy questions" cluster, and on the basis of the results of prior consultations by the Chairman of the Second Committee with the representatives of Member States in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Development Board, the Committee requests the Committee on Conferences to consider advancing the timing of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board meeting so that its report is available by the middle of September. **(To be implemented by the Second Committee)**

4. The long-standing practice of inviting, within existing resources, key speakers and organizing panels and round tables should be maintained. The Secretariat should continue to consult well in advance with the Bureau about the preparations for such events so that they can be brought to the attention of Member States at the beginning of the session of the Committee. Care must be taken not to overload the programme of work of the Committee.

/...

the relevant agenda items in order to contribute to a broader understanding and consideration of those agenda items. Attention should also be given to the increasing role of side events organized by Member States that are related to the agenda of the Committee and that would attract the participation of the members of the Committee. Member States might consider informing the Secretariat and the Bureau of their intention in this respect so that time can be set aside for these events. **(Has been implemented by the Second Committee)**

5. It is necessary to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents simultaneously in the six official languages of the General Assembly (see resolution 55/222). **(Has been implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat)**

6. Delegations should try to benefit in full from the question-and-answer time by having at least 30 to 45 minutes of discussion with the officials responsible for the preparation and presentation of the reports. Officials should be well prepared to give answers to the questions posed to them, and delegations could use this time to express views on the issues under discussion. **(Implemented - see Part I relating to para. 3(d))**

7. Member States could evaluate the possibility of using the consideration of agenda items as an opportunity to exchange lessons learned and highlight their own experiences in addition to stating their national positions. In any case, efforts should be made to respect the time limits established for statements. **(To be implemented by Member States)**

8. Every effort should be made to reach consensus in a timely fashion. Enough time should be allocated for the drafting of forward-looking resolutions that reflect current trends and realities. **(To be implemented by Member States in conjunction with the Committee Secretariat)**

9. Resolutions should be concise and action-oriented, and the Committee should observe the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions in this regard, in particular resolution 57/270 B. **(To be implemented by Member States)**

10. In order to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of resolutions, reports should focus on implementation by the various actors addressed in the resolutions. Special emphasis should be placed on implementation by the United Nations system. **(Implemented by Member States when drafting resolutions)**

THIRD COMMITTEE

Reference: A/C.3/59/CRP.1 as revised:

1. With a view to enhancing participatory and interactive discussions:

/...

- (a) Executive heads of agencies, funds and programmes, representatives of the Secretary-General, special procedures, and, where appropriate, chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies shall introduce their reports at the commencement of the debate on the items. Interactive discussions and question times shall be held with those personalities as part of the formal proceedings. The Secretariat is requested to provide the Third Committee with a list of participants prior to the debates, in order to facilitate delegation's preparations for the question time. **(Implemented by the Third Committee Secretariat)**
 - (b) The Third Committee will introduce on a pilot basis, at its 60th session, interactive debates in an informal setting, on the understanding that the Committee will not meet at the same time. Any such sessions should be held within the existing budget allocated for Third Committee meetings and should not result in the expansion of the Committee's schedule of work. Interactive debates shall be organized in consultation with Member States. **(Implemented by the Third Committee Secretariat. See Part I relating to para. 3(c))**
2. Regarding the drafting resolutions, preambular and operative paragraphs shall be concise, focused and designed to have an impact on policy development. **(To be implemented by Member States)**
 3. Resolutions should be tabled, when appropriate, biennially or at longer intervals. **(To be implemented by Member States)**
 4. The ECOSOC report shall be considered in its entirety in the plenary of the GA. Those parts of the report that coincide with items allocated to the Third Committee, resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council shall only be forwarded to the Committee for final action by the Assembly when the latter is required to consider issues related to mandates, additional appropriations or other related matters. In this regard, there should be close informal communications between the Chairman of the Third Committee and the President of ECOSOC. **(Implemented both by the plenary and the Committee)**
 5. Member States are encouraged not to present within the Third Committee resolutions and decisions that have already been adopted by ECOSOC or its subsidiary bodies. **(Implemented by Member States, as reflected in the report of ECOSOC applicable only to the item entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice")**
 6. The deadline for submission of proposals tabled under the first agenda item shall be the same as the deadline for submission of proposals under the second agenda item considered by the Committee. Informal consultation should be concluded early enough to meet the tabling deadline. **(Unimplementable as the deadlines are staggered in accordance with the schedule of the consideration of the agenda items)**

/...

7. Member States should make every effort to reduce the number of reports requested from the Secretary-General, inter alia, by requesting consolidated reports. There should be no automaticity in requesting reports: they should only be requested when they would assist in taking stock of developments on a particular issue. **(To be implemented by Member States)**

8. Reports shall be issued in strict compliance with the 6-week rule of distribution of documents simultaneously in the six official languages of the UN. Reports shall be substantive and analytical. The focus should be kept on recent developments, progress made, challenges, conclusions and recommendations. **(Implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat)**

9. Documentation should be made available for distribution in the meeting room 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. **(Implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat)**

10. The web-site of the Third Committee should be further developed and utilized. Member States and observers are encouraged to post documents, including draft resolutions and statements made in the general debate, on the web site. **(Implemented – see Part I, relating to para. 3(e))**

11. The Third Committee should consider closer collaboration with other Main Committees, to identify issues that are also under the consideration of those Committees. In this regard, joint panel discussions and meetings may be held on issues of common interest. **(Implemented by the Third Committee – see Part I relating to para. 3(c))**

12. The Third Committee should also take into account the experience and best practices of other Main Committees in improving its work. **(To be implemented by the Third Committee)**

13. The Third Committee shall continue to examine ways to revitalize its work and take appropriate action by consensus in this regard. **(To be implemented by the Third Committee)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

The Fifth Committee informed that the Committee has already been implementing the provisions of paragraphs 3(c), 3(d)-(f) and 3(h) of resolution 58/316. **(No further action is required)**

In view of the fact that the Committee's work is increasingly impacted by both the late availability and quality of reports, it might be useful for the incoming Chair of the Fifth Committee to meet with the Secretary of the Fifth Committee and the Chair of ACABQ approximately two months prior to each GA session to review and expedite the issuance of reports. **(To be implemented by the Fifth Committee)**

/...

Regarding paragraph 3(b) and 5(d) of resolution 58/316, the last minute addition of urgent issues renders the presentation of a programme of work some months in advance of the session of very little value. It would be helpful to have an understanding that this requirement will not be applied in the case of the Fifth Committee. **(The Committee did not adopt any provisional programme of work for both the 59th or 60th sessions)**

SIXTH COMMITTEE

The Sixth Committee informed the Committee has taken steps aimed at enhancing further the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, the interaction between the

Sixth Committee and the International Law Commission, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two bodies. During the 59th session, the Sixth Committee also took several initiatives to hold interactive debates, panel discussions and question and answer time. **(Implemented - see Part I relating to para. 3(c))**

* * * * *

Annex

Revitalization of Main Committees: references

	Rationalizing of Agenda	Provisional Programme of Work	Working Methods (e.g. Interactive debates, Question time, Drafting of resolutions etc.)
1st Cttee	Letter dated 5 November 2004 from the Chairman of the Committee to the President of the GA.	Letter dated 5 November 2004 from the Chairman of the Committee to the President of the GA. (see also A/59/860). By decision 60/521 of 8 December 2005, the GA approved the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61 st session (see A/60/524, Annex).	See resolution 59/95, adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2004
4th Cttee	See Non-paper approved by the Committee on 11 March 2005	A/C.4/59/CRP.1 (see also A/59/860). By decision 60/526 of 8 December 2005, the GA took note of the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61 st session (see A/60/525, Annex I).	See Non-paper approved by the Committee on 11 March 2005.
2nd Cttee	-	A/C.2/59/CRP.1 (see also A/59/860). By decision 60/549 of 22 December 2005, the GA adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61 st session (see A/60/497, para. 5).	A/C.2/59/CRP.2/Rev.1
3rd Cttee	A/C.3/59/CRP.1/Rev1 (section A)	A/C.3/59/CRP.2 (see also A/59/860). By decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005, the GA adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61 st session (see A/60/512, para. 6).	A/C.3/59/CRP.1/Rev1 (section B)

5th Cttee	Letter dated 30 March 2005 from the Chair of the Committee to the President of the Assembly.	-	Letter dated 30 March 2005 from the Chair of the Committee to the President of the Assembly.
6th Cttee	Letter dated 23 March 2005 from the Chair of the Committee to the President of the Assembly.	A Provisional Programme of Work for the 60th session was adopted at 18 February 2005 (see also A/59/860). By decision 60/513 of 8 December 2005, the GA adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61st session (see A/60/523, para. 5).	-



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

413 EAST 51ST STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-9613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

2 March 2006

Excellency,

We have the honour to refer to our letter of 28 February, inviting you to the second meeting of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Friday, 3 March at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 4.

As mentioned in that letter, we are now circulating a background note, prepared by the Secretariat, on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly. We hope that the note will be helpful to you in identifying the tasks lying ahead for our working group.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalne
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

BACKGROUND NOTE

REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To facilitate consideration and examination of the current status of General Assembly revitalization by Member States in advance of the forthcoming status report requested of the Secretary-General in paragraph 19 of A/RES/59/313, this note intends to do three things: flag reporting requirements of the 60th session emerging from the revitalization resolutions of the 58th and 59th sessions; provide a brief overview of revitalization; and offer an initial indication of items implemented and partially implemented.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In the course of the current session, two reports on revitalization are to emerge. Paragraph 4 of A/RES/59/313 “decide[d] to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly” and paragraph 5 of the same resolution “decide[d] also that the **ad hoc working group shall submit a report** with specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session”. Similarly, paragraph 19 of A/RES/59/313 “request[ed] the **Secretary-General to submit a status report to the General Assembly** at its sixtieth session on the implementation of all resolutions regarding the revitalization of its work, including A/RES/58/126..., A/RES/58/316, *and the present resolution*” [italics added]. As a precursor to paragraph 19 of A/RES/59/313, A/RES/58/316, in its third operative paragraph, also “request[ed] the Secretary-General to report on all aspects of the implementation of A/RES/58/126 and the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session”.

BACKGROUND

The scope of these requests is broad and important and has the potential to make a significant impact. The task should not be underestimated. While revitalization efforts have been particularly intense in more recent sessions, the active consideration of this issue can be traced back to the forty-fifth session, with individual elements of it (such as issues of documentation and the consolidation of agenda items) appearing separately in other contexts even earlier. In the span of these last fifteen years alone, some 18 different resolutions on revitalization or aspects of it, comprising 150 different tasks, has emerged.

It is evident, looking at these resolutions from within the rubrics identified by the Co-Chairs in their letter of 9 February 2006, that 16 of these 18 resolutions mentioned or dealt with the role and authority of the General Assembly. Six resolutions have addressed aspects of the working methods of the Assembly, a number of them specifically addressing the working methods of the six Main Committees, the General Committee and the conduct of business at the plenary level. The agenda of the GA and efforts to rationalize it are addressed in six different resolutions between the 48th and 59th sessions. The Office of the President of the GA and the need to enhance and strengthen

the role of the President has been highlighted in various resolutions, in which concerns have ranged from the need for more appropriate office space for the President to the need for the President to interact more with his/her counterparts from other UN Organs including the Presidents of the other principal organs, with six resolutions touching on these aspects.

IMPLEMENTATION

Without wishing to anticipate the forthcoming report requested of the Secretary-General on the status of revitalization efforts, the initial survey of implementation contained in the following paragraphs, and intended as indicative rather than definitive, is provided as a preliminary response to delegations, with the hope that it will assist them in their deliberations.

Even initially, it is clear that a significant number of the requests and provisions of recent resolutions have already been **implemented**. These include, but are not limited to:

- The five additional posts made available to supplement current support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (A/RES/58/126 Annex section A, paragraph 10);
- The transitional office accommodation and other support provided to the President-elect of the General Assembly (A/RES/58/126 Annex section A, paragraph 11);
- The election of the Full Bureaux of the Main Committees three months in advance of the forthcoming session (A/RES/58/126 Annex section B, paragraph 9);
- The organization of the agenda of the General Assembly under the headings of the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 and the current Strategic Framework (A/RES/58/316 Annex section B, paragraph 2);
- The General Committee meeting throughout the session to advise the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work (A/RES/58/316 Annex section E paragraph 5(b));
- The Secretary-General submitting reports at the 58th and the 59th sessions of the General Assembly including requested information on the status of documentation (A/RES/58/316 Annex section E paragraph 5(d), see also A/58/864 and A/59/860);
- The Secretariat providing services for ad hoc groups (A/RES/59/313, OP 6);
- Meetings between the Presidents of the GA and the Security Council, as well as the tripartite meetings of the Presidents of the Assembly, the Security Council, and ECOSOC (A/RES/58/126 Annex section A paragraph 6), being scheduled with greater frequency and regularity.

In addition to these, and of particular interest to the Ad Hoc Working Group, the Assembly did, as indicated in A/RES/58/316 Annex section D paragraphs 4a-m and

requested in A/RES/58/126 Annex section B paragraph 5, closely scrutinize its Agenda and make a number of modifications to it. These were implemented in the fifty-ninth session.

As specifically regards the role and authority of the General Assembly, while many earlier resolutions affirmed and reaffirmed its importance, often in their preambles, it was not until the 58th session that specific decisions were taken by the GA to enhance its role and authority. Further concrete decisions on practical measures to strengthen the role and authority of the GA, as set out under the Charter, were also specifically set out in the separate section devoted to this issue in A/RES/59/313. These measures included, inter alia, the role of the GA to discuss issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with relevant Charter Articles.

In addition to these, a number of important mandates that have already been **partially implemented** can also be flagged:

- To varying degrees, the Main Committees have made significant progress in implementing a number of the tasks confided to them in A/RES/58/316 Annex section C:
 - A number of them rationalizing their agendas through biennialization, triennialization, clustering, or elimination of items (C3a);
 - All but one of them adopting early provisional programmes of work for upcoming sessions (C3b);
 - One of them commencing and others enhancing the practice of holding interactive debates and panel discussions (C3c) and question time (C3d);
 - Most of them committing to enhancing their websites (C3e);
 - A number of the Committees also complying with paragraphs C3f (in which the bureaux-elect are to meet immediately after their election to discuss their work), paragraph C3g (in which incoming bureaux are to meet with outgoing bureaux), and paragraph C3h (in which informal briefings of each Main Committee are to be held prior to the opening of each session to discuss the organisation of work);
- The General Assembly's Rules of Procedure, which A/RES/59/313, OP 14 requested be issued on line in a consolidated version, have been put on line in their current form. The preparation of a consolidated version that will supersede the versions now on line and in print is under consideration pending availability of resources;
- The use of optical scanners, taking due account of security requirements (A/RES/59/313, OP 15), is still being actively examined and considered.
- Regarding efforts to ensure that documentation and reports are issued well in advance, in keeping with the six-week rule, as referred to A/RES/49/221 B and A/RES/59/309, extraordinary measures have been implemented by DGACM to ensure department-wide compliance (A/RES/59/313, OP 18);
- With regard to section F of the Annex to A/RES/58/316, on the consolidation of reports, some reports have indeed been consolidated as appropriate and agreed, though further consultations on this question could be productive;

- The General Committee has also still to make recommendations to the General Assembly on ways and means of improving its own working methods (A/RES/58/316 Annex section E paragraph 5h), although discussions have been held in this respect during the 59th and 60th sessions.

These issues, among others, might assist and inform consideration by Member States and discussion in the Ad Hoc Working Group in advance of the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General.

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CHART ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REVITALIZATION RESOLUTIONS
58/126, 58/316 and 59/313

I. Resolution 58/126 of 19 December 2003

Operative Paragraph	Status of Implementation
Annex Section A: Enhancing the authority and role of the General Assembly In annex A to resolution 58/126, the General Assembly, in order to enhance the authority and role of the General Assembly, decided that:	
1. Member States reaffirm the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000) on the central position of the General Assembly.	No action required.
2. The Security Council is invited to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern.	Since the adoption of resolution 58/126, no special subject-oriented reports were submitted to the Assembly.
3. The Security Council is invited to continue with initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the Assembly with a substantive, analytical and material account of its work, in accordance with resolution 51/193.	To be implemented by the Security Council.
4. In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in resolution 51/241, annex, paragraph 12, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the Security Council report, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Security Council.	To date, consideration of the report of the Security Council has been held in the plenary.

5. The President of the General Assembly should continue to be briefed regularly by the President of the Security Council on the work of the Council. The President of the Assembly may wish to inform Member States about the substantive issues raised during these meetings.	The Presidents of the General Assembly continue to be briefed by the President of the Security Council.
6. The Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should meet together periodically with a view to ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the work programmes of the three organs in accordance with their respective responsibilities under the Charter. In this connection, the President of the Security Council may wish to discuss the plans of the Security Council for thematic debates with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The President of the Assembly will inform Member States about the outcome of these meetings.	The Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council meet together periodically.
7. In June of each year, the President-elect of the General Assembly, after taking into account the views provided by Member States and following consultations with the incumbent President and the Secretary-General, will suggest an issue, or issues, of global concern upon which Member States will be invited to comment during the general debate at the forthcoming session of the Assembly. The views provided by Member States should also be summarized and circulated to Member States. Such suggestions regarding the issue(s) for comment will be without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to solely and entirely determine the content of their general debate statements.	The President-elect of the 60th session of the General Assembly suggested the theme "Follow-up and implementation of the Summit outcome".
8. The work and decisions of the General Assembly should be better publicized. Accordingly, the support provided by the Department of Public	A plan has been presented by the Secretary-General to the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Information (see A/AC.198/2004/6; see also resolution

Information of the Secretariat for these purposes should be intensified and strengthened. The Secretary-General is requested to present a plan to this end, within existing resources, to the next session of the Committee on Information, so that recommendations can be made to the Assembly.	59/126 B of 10 December 2004).
9. Member States and the Secretariat should consider initiatives that might be taken for better monitoring of the follow-up of resolutions of the General Assembly, such as the provision of timely inputs for reports of the Secretary-General and giving effect to proposals that would advance the follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.	Under consideration.
10. The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support, of which three shall be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.	Implemented as of the 59 th session.
11. Transitional office accommodation and other support shall be provided to the President-elect of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General is requested to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of such support, within existing resources, beginning with the President-elect of the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.	Implemented as of the 59 th session.

Operative Paragraph	Status of Implementation
Annex Section B: Improving the working methods of the General Assembly The working methods of the General Assembly need to be further rationalized in order to improve its efficiency and effectiveness and to make its outcomes more productive. Towards this end:	
1. The General Committee shall meet throughout the session and further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. It will play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work. In this connection, the Assembly will also consider proposals to reform the General Committee.	The General Assembly at its 58th session, on 1 July 2004, adopted resolution 58/316, by which it inter alia decided on a number of measures with regard to the reform of the General Committee (see below annex II).
2. The work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly might benefit if it is scheduled over two substantive periods during the session. The rescheduling of the work of the Main Committees should not lead to additional costs, additional or longer meetings, or staggered work schedules of the Main Committees. With a view to enabling the Assembly to consider changes in this regard, with effect from the sixtieth session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to present, by 1 February 2004, various options for consideration by the General Committee, taking into account the requirements of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the different locations of their meetings and the budget cycle. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the options presented by the Secretary-General before making recommendations to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Options for the rescheduling of the Main Committees of the General Assembly" (A/58/CRP.3) which the General Assembly considered at its 58th session (see annex II below).
3. The General Assembly will consider convening more interactive debates. At the beginning of each session, the General Committee, following recommendations from the President of the	At the 58th and 59th session, the General Committee held a number of briefings open to all Member States. The President of the 60th session, in accordance with resolution 59/313 (see annex III below), proposed, in

General Assembly, shall recommend to the Assembly a programme of, and format for, interactive debates during that session on items on its agenda.	consultation with Member States, to hold an interactive debate on the theme “health and development”.
4. With a view to better conceptualization of the content of the agenda of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the Assembly, for its consideration by 1 March 2004, an illustrative agenda of the Assembly, based on all the agenda items of the fifty-eighth session, organized around the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002–2005. ¹ The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the illustrative agenda before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	In response to this request the Secretariat circulated a note entitled “Illustrative agenda of the General Assembly” (A/58/CRP.4) which the General Assembly considered at its 58 th session (see annex II below).
5. It would be advantageous for the General Assembly to have a shorter agenda to ensure the fullest discussion of all issues, so that its decisions may have greater impact. Accordingly, the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and following consultations with concerned Member States, is requested to make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the Assembly for the consideration of the General Committee by	Subsequent to adoption of resolution 58/126, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled “Analysis of the agenda of the General Assembly” which was considered by the General Committee in open-ended informal consultations (see annex II below).

¹ For the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002–2005:

- (a) Maintenance of international peace and security;
- (b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;
- (c) Development of Africa;
- (d) Promotion of human rights;
- (e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;
- (f) Promotion of justice and international law;
- (g) Disarmament;
- (h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

see paragraph 26 of the introduction to the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/55/6/Rev.1)*) adopted in resolution 55/234.

1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the proposals before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	
6. General Assembly resolutions should be more concise, focused and action-oriented. Where practical, more actions taken by the Assembly should be in the form of decisions. Preambular paragraphs in resolutions of the Assembly should normally be kept to the minimum.	Numerous resolutions and decisions at the 58 th , 59 th and 60 th sessions have adhered to this request.
7. The heavy volume of documentation that is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration should be reduced. In this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to continue his efforts to make proposals to Member States for the consolidation of reports on related subjects in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300. The proposals on a shorter agenda should be accompanied by related proposals for a reduction in the volume of documentation.	See annex II below (section D, paragraph 4 (I))
8. The Main Committees of the General Assembly are bound by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, although they have different practices and working methods. With a view to identifying best practices and working methods, and recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Main Committees to streamline their work, the Secretary-General, drawing on the experience of previous Chairmen of the Main Committees, is requested to submit a historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the note before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees" (A/58/CRP.5) which was considered by the General Committee in open-ended informal consultations (see annex II below).
9. In accordance with paragraph 2 (a)	Implemented as of the 58 th session.

and (c) of resolution 56/509, the General Assembly elects the President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the Chairmen of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of the session in which they will serve. In order to foster better advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees, the full Bureaux of the Main Committees shall similarly be elected three months in advance of the next session.	
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II. Resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004

In resolution 58/316, the General Assembly decided to adopt the text contained in the annex to the resolution; determined to continue with efforts for the revitalization of its work; and requested the Secretary-General to report on all aspects of the implementation of resolution 58/126 and resolution 58/316 to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

Operative Paragraph	Status of Implementation
A. Reordering the work of the General Assembly	
1. Recalling section B, paragraph 2, of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/126 of 19 December 2003, and having reviewed the note by the Secretariat entitled "Options for the rescheduling of the Main Committees of the General Assembly",² it is decided that: (a) The consideration of the implementation of paragraph 2 of section B of the annex to resolution 58/126 shall be deferred until its fifty-ninth session, taking into account the views expressed as well as the suggestions made by Member States in the context of the deliberations of the open-ended meetings of the General Committee during the fifty-eighth session; (b) With effect from the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the meetings of the plenary Assembly shall normally be held on Mondays and Thursdays.	(a) Action completed. (b) Action completed.
B. Organization of the agenda of the General Assembly	
2. Recalling section B, paragraph 4, of the annex to resolution 58/126, and having reviewed the note by the Secretariat entitled "Illustrative agenda of the General Assembly",³ and taking into account the views expressed by Member States on the matter, it is decided that: (a) Pursuant to paragraph 4 of section B of the annex to resolution 58/126,	(a) As of the 59th session, the agenda of the General Assembly has been organized

² A/58/CRP.3.

³ A/58/CRP.4.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/55/6/Rev.1).*

the agenda of the General Assembly shall be organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005⁴ (or in the strategic framework, as appropriate), with an additional heading for “Organizational, administrative and other matters” for the purpose of giving a sense of structure to the work of the Assembly, achieving a better presentation of the issues and challenges with which the Assembly deals and making the work of the Assembly more accessible, with the understanding that the new arrangement will not prejudice the way in which the work of the Assembly is organized and carried out; (b) The headings of the agenda shall consequently be: (i) Maintenance of international peace and security; (ii) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences; (iii) Development of Africa; (iv) Promotion of human rights; (v) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; (vi) Promotion of justice and international law; (vii) Disarmament; (viii) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; (ix) Organizational, administrative and other matters; (c) The General Committee shall make recommendations, after consultation with Member States, to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the placement of the agenda items for the fifty-ninth session under the headings set out above, with a view to making the	under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 (or in the strategic framework, as appropriate), with an additional heading I, entitled “Organizational, administrative and other matters”. (b) see (a) above. (c) Action completed.
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new arrangement effective; (d) The provisions of the present section shall be reviewed by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session with a view to making further improvements, as appropriate.	(d) The provisions of the organization of the agenda of the General Assembly will be reviewed at the 61st session of the General Assembly.
C. Practices and working methods of the Main Committees	
3. Recalling section B, paragraph 8, of the annex to resolution 58/126, and having reviewed the note by the Secretariat entitled “Historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees”,⁵ recalling that the Main Committees are bound by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and taking into account the views expressed by Member States on the matter, it is decided that: (a) Each Main Committee shall give specific attention to the rationalization of their future agendas by the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items, and make recommendations to the plenary Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005; (b) Each Main Committee shall adopt a provisional programme of work at the end of the session for the next session to help them better to plan, prepare and organize and, in this context, review the related documentation requirements; (c) The practice of interactive debates and panel discussions shall be utilized or expanded, as appropriate, by all Main Committees so as to enhance informal, in-depth discussions and to bring together experts from various fields without prejudicing the progress of the substantive work of the Main Committees; (d) The practice of “question time” shall be introduced, as appropriate, in all Main Committees to enable a dynamic	(a) In response to this request, the Main Committees at the 59th and 60th sessions made recommendations to the Assembly. Further consideration expected at the ad hoc working group established in accordance with resolution 59/313. (b) Implemented as of the 59th session. (c) Implemented by the Main Committees as of the 59th session. (d) Implemented by a number of the Main

⁵ A/58/CRP.5.

and candid exchange with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General and special rapporteurs; (e) The web sites of the Main Committees shall be enhanced and thereafter regularly updated and their content maintained by the secretariats of the Main Committees; (f) The bureaux-elect of the Main Committees shall meet immediately after their election in order to discuss the organization and division of their work; (g) With a view to ensuring the continuity and the effective organization of their work, the incoming bureaux of the Main Committees shall, no later than two weeks after their election, meet with the outgoing bureaux in order to consult on and review issues relating to the efficient functioning of the Main Committees; (h) Prior to the opening of each session, informal briefings of each Main Committee shall be convened to discuss the organization of work.	Committees as of the 59th session. (e) The web sites of the Main Committees continue to be enhanced and regularly updated by the respective secretariats. (f) Implemented as of the 58th session. (g) Implemented by most of the Main Committees as of the 58th session. (h) Implemented as of the 59th session.
D. Review of the agenda of the General Assembly	
4. Recalling section B, paragraph 5, of the annex to resolution 58/126, having reviewed the note by the Secretariat entitled “Analysis of the agenda of the General Assembly”,⁶ which provides factual information on the frequency of consideration, origin and history of action on the 333 items and sub-items on the agenda, taking into account the views expressed by Member States, and following consultations with concerned Member States, it is decided that: (a) The items entitled “Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development” and “Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the	The provisions of this paragraph have been fully implemented as of the 59th session.

⁶ A/58/CRP.6.

economic, social and related fields” shall be eliminated from the agenda; (b) The items entitled “Question of Cyprus”, “Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo”, “Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)”, “The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti”, “Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security”, “Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait”, and “Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986” shall remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State; (c) The item entitled “Report of the Economic and Social Council” shall be considered in its entirety in plenary; (d) While remaining on the agenda of the plenary, the sub-item entitled “Sport for peace and development: Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal” shall be considered every other year and the items entitled “Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin” and “Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion” shall be considered every three years; (e) The item entitled “Information and communication technologies for development” and the sub-item entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster	
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relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions” shall be allocated for annual consideration in the Second Committee;

(f) The item entitled “Towards global partnerships” shall be allocated for consideration every other year in the Second Committee;

(g) The sub-item entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: Participation of volunteers, ‘White Helmets’, in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development” shall be allocated for consideration every three years in the Second Committee;

(h) The item entitled “Global road safety crisis” shall be allocated for consideration every other year in the Third Committee;

(i) The item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples” shall be allocated for annual consideration in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee);

(j) The item entitled “Assistance in mine action” shall be allocated for consideration every other year in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee);

(k) The item entitled “University for Peace” shall be allocated for consideration every three years in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee);

(l) Bearing in mind that the General Assembly decided in resolution 55/285 of 7 September 2001 to cluster all cooperation items under one item, to make

individual cooperation items sub-items and to hold a joint debate for all sub-items, the Secretary-General shall submit a single consolidated report under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”; (m) The adjustments outlined in the paragraphs above shall take effect beginning with the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly; (n) The General Assembly shall monitor the effects of the adjustments outlined in the paragraphs above and continue to make efforts, as appropriate, to further streamline the agenda of the plenary.	(n) Further consideration expected by the ad hoc working group established in accordance with resolution 59/313.
E. General Committee	
5. Recalling section B, paragraph 1, of the annex to resolution 58/126, having conducted a review of the work of the General Committee, and taking into account the views expressed by Member States on the matter, it is decided that: (a) The work of the General Committee shall be carried out in accordance with section VI of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly; (b) The General Committee shall continue to meet throughout the session and to play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work; (c) To ensure the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the General Committee shall meet regularly throughout the session with the bureaux of the Main Committees to review the progress of the work of the Main Committees and to make recommendations for furthering such progress; (d) In July of each year, the General Committee shall conduct a review of the proposed programme of work for the forthcoming session of the General	(a) No action required. (b) Since the adoption of the present resolution, the General Committee met throughout the sessions of the General Assembly and played its leading role in advising the Assembly in the organization of its work. (c) Since the adoption of the present resolution, the General Committee has met regularly throughout the session to ensure the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure. Main Committee Chairmen regularly briefed General Committee on the work of their Committees. (d) In response to this request the Secretary-General has submitted a report at the 58th and the 59th sessions of the General Assembly, including the requested

Assembly, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, and submit recommendations on the matter to the forthcoming Assembly. The report of the Secretary-General shall include information on the status of documentation to be issued during the forthcoming session; (e) The General Committee, meeting in open-ended consultations, shall continue to consider the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the General Assembly and make recommendations thereon to the Assembly during its fifty-ninth session; (f) On the basis of proposals from the President of the General Assembly, and in the light of the positive experience during the fifty-eighth session, the General Committee shall be encouraged, as appropriate, to continue to schedule informal briefings on topical issues; (g) At the beginning of each session, the General Committee, following recommendations from the President of the General Assembly, shall recommend to the Assembly a programme of, and format for, interactive debates on the items on its agenda; (h) The General Committee shall continue to consider ways and means to further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects, and make recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005.	information on the status of documentation (see A/58/864 and A/59/860). (e) Since the adoption of this resolution, the General Committee has made no recommendations to the General Assembly on the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the Assembly's customary agenda. (f) At the 58th and 59th sessions, the General Committee held a number of informal briefings on topical issues. (g) Since the adoption of this resolution, the General Committee has made no recommendations to the General Assembly on a programme of interactive debates on the items on its agenda. (h) The General Committee continues to consider ways and means to of improving its working methods.
F. Documentation	
6. In the light of its decision in section B, paragraph 7, of the annex to resolution 58/126 that the heavy volume of documentation that is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration	

⁷ A/58/CRP.7.

should be reduced, the Secretary-General is requested: (a) To update the note by the Secretariat, entitled “Control and limitation of documentation”,⁷ in the light of the provisions of the present resolution; (b) To submit the updated version of the note by the Secretariat for the consideration of the General Committee, meeting in open-ended consultations, so that it may make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session; (c) To take the necessary action to initiate the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to start, on a trial basis, a consultative process with the President of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of the Main Committees of the Assembly at the end of the main part of each session of the Assembly, with a view to consolidating reports on related subjects, if decided by the Main Committees.	(a) Note will be updated as soon as new relevant information becomes available. (b) The General Committee at the 59th session did not make any recommendations to the General Assembly. (c) Since the adoption of this resolution, a number of reports, where appropriate, have been considered.
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III. Resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005

Operative Paragraph	Status of Implementation
Role and authority of the General Assembly	
1. <i>Stresses</i> the need to demonstrate political will to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly;	Action completed.
2. <i>Decides</i>, in the context of further strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly as set out in the Charter of the United Nations: (a) To convene and organize major thematic debates in order to establish broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States; (b) To discuss issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 35 of the Charter, where appropriate using the procedures set forth in rules 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter; (c) To consider the annual reports as well as special reports of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, and Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, through substantive and interactive debates; (d) To invite the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern; (e) To also invite the Security Council to update the General Assembly on	(a) The President of the 60th session of the General Assembly has scheduled to hold a major thematic debate on the theme of health and development (see also below 3). (b) The General Assembly has a number of items on its agenda that fall under the Articles listed. Since the adoption of the present resolution, the General Assembly has not convened in special or emergency special session. (c) Since the adoption of the present resolution, the General Assembly, at its meetings on 2005, considered the annual report of the Security Council. (d) No such reports were submitted since. (e) No such update has been provided to the General Assembly since.

a regular basis on the steps it has taken or is contemplating with respect to improving its reporting to the Assembly; (f) To hold interactive debates on other reports submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Charter;	(f) Since the adoption of the present resolution, the General Assembly has considered a number of reports submitted in accordance with the Article mentioned.
President of the General Assembly	
3. <i>Decides</i> to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by: (a) Authorizing the President of the General Assembly to propose interactive debates on current issues on the agenda of the Assembly, in consultation with Member States; (b) Augmenting the resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly from within existing resources, subject to consideration by the Assembly of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007, to provide for two further additional posts at management and senior levels to be filled on an annual basis following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the sixtieth session of the Assembly; (c) Making available to the President of the General Assembly adequate office and conference space with a view to enabling the President to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office; (d) Requesting the Secretary-General to ensure that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol services at Headquarters and at other United Nations duty stations;	(a) The President of the 60th session, in consultation with Member States, proposed an interactive debate on the theme health and development. (b) Action completed. (c) The President has been disposed with adequate office space. (d) In response to this request, decisions have been initiated between the Office of the President and the Protocol Office.
Agenda and working methods of the plenary Assembly and the Main Committees	
4. <i>Decides</i> to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of	The 1st meeting of the ad hoc working group was held on 16 February 2006.

the General Assembly, inter alia, by building on relevant Assembly resolutions and reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly;	
5. <i>Decides also</i> that the ad hoc working group shall submit a report with specific recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;	Report will be issued during the 60 th session.
6. <i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to provide the ad hoc working group with the necessary services;	The ad hoc working group is provided by the Secretary-General with the necessary services.
7. <i>Encourages</i> the Main Committees to implement in full the provisions contained in paragraph 3 of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, building upon the results of relevant discussions in each Committee;	Action completed.
8. <i>Encourages</i> the bureaux of the Main Committees to enhance their cooperation and to learn from each other's best practices;	Action completed.
9. <i>Requests</i> the Chairpersons of the Main Committees, at the end of their terms of office, to provide a short report on their observations and "lessons learned" to their immediate successors;	Due to the date of adoption of the resolution at the 59 th session, the first reports of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees to their immediate successors are expected at the end of the 60 th session.
10. <i>Decides</i> that time limits on speeches in the plenary Assembly and in the Main Committees shall be applied in accordance with rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;	Implementation of rules 72 and 114 by the respective chairperson.
11. <i>Strongly urges</i> all officers presiding over meetings of the General Assembly to start such meetings on time;	Action completed.
12. <i>Encourages</i> the holding of interactive debates with a view to contributing to intergovernmental decision-making;	See 3 above.
13. <i>Invites</i> Member States that are aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions that they make in their national capacity on points that have not already been adequately addressed in the	To be implemented by Member States aligned with statements by major groupings.

statements of the group in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position;	
14. <i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online;	Under consideration, pending availability of resources.
15. <i>Recommends</i> consideration of the use of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the modalities thereof to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;	Under consideration. Also expected to be considered by the ad hoc working group.
Documentation	
16. <i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to implement further the measures set out in paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002 on the consolidation of reports and in paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 58/316, on documentation;	Under consideration.
17. <i>Encourages</i> Member States, when seeking additional information, to request that they be provided with the information either orally or, if in writing, in the form of information sheets, annexes, tables and the like, and encourages the wider use of this practice;	To be implemented by Member States.
18. <i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation and reports are issued well in advance, in keeping with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation simultaneously in all official languages, as set out in resolution 49/221 B of 23 December 1994 and in resolution 59/309 of 22 June 2005 on multilingualism;	In response to this request, the USG DGACM and the SG have entered into the Compact 2006 which provides for zero tolerance on late submission of documents.
19. <i>Also requests</i> the Secretary-General to submit a status report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of all resolutions regarding	In preparation.

the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 58/126 of 19 December 2003 and 58/316 and the present resolution.	
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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

413 EAST 51ST STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
TEL: 212-355-1730
FAX: 212-750-9613



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

28 February 2006

Excellency,

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly we invite you to the second meeting of the working group on Friday, 3 March at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 4.

At our first meeting on 16 February, several delegations requested information on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly. In response to this request, an informal background note is currently being prepared by the Secretariat and will be circulated to all Member States before the next meeting.

The purpose of our meeting on 3 March will be to continue the general debate on General Assembly revitalization. The background note may serve to inform this debate.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
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9 February 2006

Excellency,

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly, established in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 59/313, we invite you to the first meeting of the working group on Thursday, 16 February at 3 p.m. in Conference Room 2.

The purpose of the meeting will be to seek the views of all delegations on the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly. Following our letter of 16 January, we have already received some initial inputs, for which we are grateful.

At the meeting, you may wish to make comments on any theme pertinent to the revitalization of the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, including:

1. the role and authority of the Assembly;
2. the working methods of the Assembly;
3. the agenda of the Assembly;
4. the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

We look forward with great interest to hearing your views on the work of the General Assembly, for which we all share equal responsibility.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalne
Co-Chair

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

16 January 2006

Excellency,

In the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, the world's leaders reaffirmed the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly, established in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly Resolution 59/313, we therefore wish to invite all delegations to assist us in identifying ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly.

We believe that the three key elements of this task are:

1. to review the agenda of the General Assembly, in order to avoid redundancy;
2. to examine the role of the Assembly in light of current political realities, in order to enhance its credibility, authority and visibility;
3. to propose reforms to the working methods of the Assembly, in order to make it more effective and efficient.

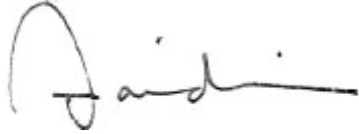
It is our intention to assess the impact of previous relevant assembly resolutions and, as far as possible, to promote further implementation of recommendations contained therein.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

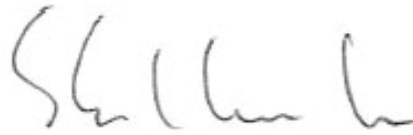
We recognize that several delegations have already made detailed proposals for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly and we will certainly give careful consideration to these proposals.

We envisage that the first meeting of the ad hoc working group will take place by mid-February, with a view to completing its work by May. In anticipation of our first meeting, initial contributions from delegations on the theme of revitalization of the General Assembly will be most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alsaïdi', with a large initial 'A'.

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Silkalna', with a large initial 'S'.

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna
Co-Chair



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 November 2005

Excellency,

In my letter of 31 October, I shared with you some reflections on the issue of General Assembly revitalization, outlining different aspects of this important work during the current session.

One part of this work is to establish, in accordance with resolution 59/313, paragraph 4, “an ad hoc working group... to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly”.

I am pleased to inform you that for this purpose, I have invited Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna of Latvia and Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaïdi of Yemen to co-chair this working group. I have asked the Co-Chairs to begin to prepare for the working group’s deliberations by consulting Member States and to report back to me in time for the working group to be convened early next year.

They will be in contact with delegations shortly in this regard and will be grateful to receive your advice and ideas as we guide this important issue forward.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jan Eliasson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jan Eliasson

All the Permanent Representatives
To the United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

31 October 2005

Excellency,

In my letter of 30 September, I stated my intention to revert to you during the month of October on the issue of General Assembly revitalization. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some reflections on this matter.

First of all, it is my firm conviction that timely and effective implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome through our common efforts would be our most important and tangible contribution to revitalizing the General Assembly.

Yet, while the Assembly is already asserting its role by making progress toward concrete results on issues related to the Outcome document, I would also like to build on the efforts of previous sessions to strengthen and revitalize the General Assembly.

During its fifty-ninth session, the Assembly adopted resolution 59/313, which *inter alia* deals with the role and authority of the General Assembly, the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly, the agenda and working methods of the plenary and the Main Committees, as well as issues related to documentation.

All the Permanent Representatives
To the United Nations
New York

In implementation of paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 59/313, I intend to consult shortly on holding an interactive thematic debate on a development related issue in the spring of 2006.

Also, the Assembly decided in resolution 59/313, paragraph 4, “to establish an ad hoc working group... to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly”. For this purpose, I intend to appoint two Co-Chairs of such a working group in the near future. The Co-Chairs will prepare for the group’s deliberations by consulting Member States on the issues to be addressed and report back to me in time for the working group to be convened early next year.

The continued revitalization of the Main Committees was addressed in paragraph 7 of resolution 59/313. I have encouraged the Chairs of the Main Committees to bring this to the attention of their Committees and asked them to report to me on their discussions and progress made.

Another part of the revitalization process is the role of the General Committee. This is underlined in paragraph 1 of section B of the annex to resolution 58/126. I am taking this forward by holding formal and informal meetings of the General Committee to review progress of work of the Assembly and to benefit from the advice of the General Committee on various aspects of the Assembly’s work.

I am of course interested in, and receptive to, further ideas and proposals which the Member States may have with regard to the important matter of revitalization of the General Assembly. I look forward as well to collaborating with you closely and constructively as we guide this important issue forward.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Jan Eliasson