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COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by
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Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly

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Thank you, Co-Chairs,

Allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to recognize the excellent job carried out by the Working Group on the *Revitalization of the General Assembly* and, in particular, to highlight the work of the Ambassadors of Ecuador and Norway as its co-Chairs. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by the Non-Aligned Movement and the Rio Group.

The summary presented by the Co-Chairs last 9 July is an important step towards the organizing and coordinating of the efforts that seek to reinstate the role of the General Assembly as the main body of participation, deliberation, and policymaking.

In this regard, I would like to highlight the interest of the facilitators in sharing the presentations on voting technologies and the more efficient management of documentation. The launch of new technologies that make the voting process more efficient and transparent has been among the issues of utmost interest to my delegation throughout this process. We hope that this analysis continues from both a technological and a budgetary standpoint.

Regarding the issues contained in the summary, I would like to highlight, first of all, that the use of thematic debates within a format that focuses on results is particularly relevant to the image and efficiency of the General Assembly.

On the other hand, coordination among the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly is another plausible objective that should be achieved through the distribution of responsibilities based on the Charter and a better access to information regarding the work of these bodies.

The strengthening of the role of the President of the General Assembly within the United Nations system must be, likewise, a priority and, therefore, the implementation of the resolutions that seek to increase the resources available to his office, as well as to optimize the existing ones.

The participation of the General Assembly in the election of the Secretary General must be more proactive. It would be convenient to have a greater interaction between the various candidates and the Assembly, with presentations before the plenary and regional groups.

Co-Chairs,

All of these initiatives, as well as others included in the summary, must be tackled in order to achieve the goal of *Revitalization of the General Assembly*. In response to the request by the Co-Chairs to present recommendations on the way forward, I would like to present some suggestions regarding the methodology that could help achieve greater efficiency in the next stage.

First, it would be helpful to undergo a **purging process** that allows for the differentiation between the resolutions that have already been implemented and those that are pending. The summary prepared by the current Co-Chairs and the chart presented by the Working Group during its previous session, in document A/62/952/Add.1, are an helpful basis for this process. The resolutions that have already been implemented can be incorporated as an annex to the *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly*, while the task of revitalization can focus on the implementation of those that are pending.

Second, it is necessary to **classify** the tasks in order to determine **priorities** in the short and long term. A classification based on the different thematic areas and their character will help us identify priorities so as to

establish a working order that will enable us to take action in the implementation of the various resolutions.

Finally, we propose the elaboration of **specific plans of action** in each thematic area. These plans will allow the visualization of elements and critical paths in which to achieve results. Each action plan must define elements such as: goals to attain, analysis of the economic and/or legal viability of the proposal, concrete activities, a timeline, and responsible entities.

Such planning will also allow for the follow-up of the process and its results through timetables, progress indicators, and periodic reports to the Ad Hoc Committee and the responsible bodies. Representatives of Member States, in coordination with the facilitators, could formulate the action plans. The Working Group would then be in charge of deciding whether it agrees with the plan of work and carry out modifications, as well as be in charge of the follow-up and evaluation.

Co-Chairs,

My delegation trusts that by setting clear goals and formulating concrete action plans, the Revitalization of the General Assembly will be viable and able to yield tangible results. We must focus our efforts on an approach that can help us achieve this purpose. My delegation will continue to provide its ongoing support to this important task.

Thank you.