

61/ _____

Draft Resolution on Strengthening the role of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work¹,

Aware of the need to strengthen its authority and role,

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

6 June 2007

Annex

A. General Assembly

1. Member States reaffirm the authority of the General Assembly and its central role as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, pursuant to the UN Charter and to the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.
2. The main activities of the GA are to foster debate among all Member States and to provide recommendations on issues of common interest, including Development, Peace and Security, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights, Environment, Climate, etc.

B. Role and Working Methods of the General Assembly

3. The PGA, with the assistance of the GC, prepares the GA agenda, in consultation with Member States.
4. The PGA has the authority, after consulting with Member States, to convene thematic debates in order to address main issues of concern to the international community and to propose, if needed, coordination of such debates with other bodies of the UN, including the SC and ECOSOC.
5. In order to avoid redundancy and duplication, the PGA, after consultation with the General Committee and each committee bureau, ensures that the General Assembly does not repeat voting on resolutions already acted upon at the Committee level, unless requested by a Member State.

¹ Resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/193 of 17 December 1996, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 of 1 July 2004, 59/313 of 12 September 2005 and 60/286 of 9 October 2006.

6. At least one month before the end of the three-month transition period, formal coordinating meetings between the incoming and outgoing bureau of the main committees are arranged.
7. At the beginning of each session the PGA, consulting with States concerned and assisted, if necessary, by the General Committee and each main committee bureau, makes recommendations on how to best organize the work of the session, including consolidation of reports and streamlining of future resolutions.
8. PRs, acting PRs and DPRs are strongly encouraged to participate in GA meetings. 48 hours in advance of any GA meeting, the PGA decides if there is any time limit on the length of individual speeches or not. In case of a time limit, the PGA determines the length of time and enforces the limit.
9. The GA encourages, where appropriate, continued cooperation between the GA and the national and regional parliaments, particularly through the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
10. While preserving the intergovernmental character of the General Assembly and according to the existing procedure, the President of the General Assembly organizes exchanges of views on relevant subjects with participation of civil society, in particular those from developing countries, on relevant issues.

C. Presidency of the General Assembly

11. Consistent with the principle of regional rotation, regional groups are required to provide at least three candidates for the position of PGA. The GA will invite declared candidates to participate in interactive meetings with the whole membership and the GA will proceed to election. The same country cannot present candidacy for PGA until the entire membership has had the opportunity to serve in that capacity.
12. The PGA and his/her office are responsible for accessing and informing media of GA activities in a timely and effective manner. The DPI office is required to support these efforts.
13. The Office of General Assembly Affairs is required to provide assistance as needed to the President's office, especially to ensure that the office retains memory of the previous Presidency.
14. The office of the Protocol is requested to ensure that the PGA is provided with proper protocol services at Headquarters and any where else when the PGA is exercising his/her official duties.
15. Consistent with the goal to strengthen the PGA's role, it is recommended that the budget of the PGA office is funded accordingly.

D. Secretary-General/Secretariat

SG selection / election

16. It is desirable that one year before the end of the SG's term, consideration be given to the successor. The General Assembly invites declared candidates to participate in interactive meetings with the whole membership.
17. Upon the SC recommendation on the candidates, the GA votes and appoints the SG (two-third majority).
18. Regional rotation is strongly recommended in the selection of SG candidates.

Relationship between the Secretariat and the General Assembly

19. Regular informal briefings by the SG to the GA are scheduled every 4 -6 weeks by invitation from the PGA or by request from the SG.
20. Each session, the PGA, in conjunction with the SG, organizes 2-3 open interactive thematic meetings among the membership of the GA and the SG.
21. The GA allocates human and financial resources for the Secretariat. The Secretary-General is committed to enhancing the performance of the Secretariat. The GA requests the SG to prepare, in the next few months, a proposal to allocate resources in a more flexible and efficient way in order to ensure the implementation of the mandates of the UN principle organs, while enhancing accountability and transparency.

E. Coordination between the main bodies of the UN

22. Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are encouraged to meet periodically to facilitate increased cooperation and coordination.
23. If needed, the SC submits special reports to the GA on the affairs of the Council. The GA welcomes the President of the SC to discuss the SC work with the whole membership.

F. Implementation of GA Resolutions

24. The implementation of GA resolutions related to Member States is the responsibility of each Member State.
25. When requested by the PGA, the Secretariat prepares interim assessments on the implementation status of GA resolutions on specific issues. Countries not in compliance with GA resolutions are encouraged to report on the status of implementation of these resolutions.

26. The Secretariat should report on the status of implementation of GA resolutions pertaining to it that have not yet been fully implemented. The PGA should follow up on the implementation of these outstanding Resolutions until they are fully implemented.

27. It is the responsibility of the Secretariat, and the membership to work with the PGA to ensure implementation of all GA Resolutions on Revitalization (58/126 of December 19, 2003, 58/316 of July 1, 2004, 59/313 of September 12, 2005 and 60/286 of October 9, 2006), past and present, by December 31, 2007. To ensure implementation of these and future resolutions on GA revitalization, the GA establishes an open-ended ad hoc working group.