

Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative
of India at the Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization
of the General Assembly on 13 April 2011

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

I would like to register my delegation's appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for taking time off from his very busy schedule and sharing with us his views on the role and authority of the General Assembly. His insightful views are very helpful in our present endeavour and the fact that he is sitting through this interaction is a pointer to the importance that he personally attaches to our work here.

Let me also start by placing on record my delegation's happiness at the decision taken by the two Co-Chairs (Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis of Lithuania) to convene this meeting this afternoon.

We feel that it is useful for the Ad Hoc Working Group to dedicate one entire meeting to focus exclusively on the ways and means to implement relevant resolutions on General Assembly revitalization that have not been implemented till date, or if I may add to that, which are not being fully implemented or may I say implemented only in a *proforma* manner.

My delegation recalls the last meeting of our Group held on 14 March. On that occasion there was general consensus on the need for a comprehensive review of the inventory on the status of implementation of resolutions on GA revitalization. This provides a good basis for our deliberations today.

Co-Chairs,

We must keep in mind that the resolutions of the General Assembly on its revitalization have special significance both for the member states and the international community. Depending on the willingness of the member-states, such resolutions have the potential to act as the catalyst for bringing about transformative change in the working of the Assembly. The overriding consideration should be the need to continue the focus on those measures that restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly.

In this regard, Co-Chairs, my delegation's position is well known.

India has consistently held the view that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected both in letter and in spirit.

The General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. This was the role intended for the Assembly in Article 10 of the UN Charter, namely that it discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter, i.e. the Security Council, the ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, ICJ as well as the Secretariat.

There are two specific provisions in GA resolution 64/301 that address the subject matter of our discussions. And so it is necessary for us to be guided in our task by both in equal measure.

Paragraph 2 (a) tasks our Group to "identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on previous resolutions and evaluating the status of their implementation." The responsibility placed on the Group is then fleshed out by paragraph 3 which calls, inter alia, for "a comprehensive review of the inventory" and "requests the Secretary-General to submit an update of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization that have been addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not yet been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons that are behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group."

Therefore, it is our considered view that the key aspect is to have an assessment of and I underline "the constraints and reasons that are behind any lack of implementation."

An assessment as I have just elaborated can be done in many ways. But we have to choose the methodology that is best suited and in keeping with the

essential nature of the matter under scrutiny, namely resolutions related to General Assembly revitalization.

Co-Chairs,

Resolutions on General Assembly revitalization are the preserve of and fall within the domain of the Assembly itself. The resolutions may have originated from one group of member-states, but once adopted they belong to the entire membership.

I went through the inventory and I found that on working methods there are 72 provisions in the various resolutions, on the selection of the Secretary General there are 7 provisions and on the role and authority of the General Assembly there are 38 provisions. I believe our initial task today, distinguished Co-chairs is to focus on that last segment relating to the role and authority of the General Assembly with 38 provisions that have not yet been implemented.

It becomes very crucial therefore to muster the political will at the stage of implementation of these resolutions.

But we are required to look into the constraints if any and some questions suggest themselves. And I have tried to list some of them in my own mind and I will share those with you. Even if some of these resolutions were pursued by only a group, why were they not pursued? Is it because the group concerned lost interest in those resolutions having got them adopted in the General Assembly. That's a question. Secondly, is it because some of these resolutions for instance give the impression of not being doable or they pose serious issues in implementation? If so, why was the issue of doability or implementability not addressed prior to the resolution having been adopted? And finally, most important of all, did we lose the political will or did we not summon the requisite political will to proceed with those resolutions?

Co-Chairs,

Paragraph 3 of Resolution 64/301 places on the Secretary-General a clear responsibility to give his views. We should therefore hear from the Secretariat their assessment.

Finally, let me also reiterate that my delegation attaches importance to the on-going processes of revitalization of the General Assembly, including the various aspects of strengthening of its procedures, working methods, documentation and also ensuring due follow up.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Some comments were addressed to my delegation by my distinguished colleague from Algeria in the first part of his statement which represented his national position. He enquired and I respond to that, about issues relating to the improvement in the working methods of the Security Council, presumably because we have the privilege of serving on the Council and are also a member of the Non-Aligned Group.

And I want to assure my distinguished colleague that the issues relating to the improvement of the working methods of the Security Council is not only an issue that is being followed by us vigorously within what has come to be known as the E-10 or the elected ten members of the Security Council, but is also the subject of discussion between us and the permanent members of the Security Council and in fact is also getting attention in other groups. I would certainly utilize the opportunity of another meeting to brief the members of the NAM group along with other NAM members on the Council to have a fuller discussion. I feel to go into the discussion now may not be the most appropriate thing to do.

But let me conclude distinguished Co-chairs by reiterating India's constructive support and participation in this present exercise.

Thank You.

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