

STATEMENT BY MR. DEVESH UTTAM, FIRST SECRETARY, ON 'ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY' AT THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE REVITALIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON  
APRIL 29, 2013

**Mr. Chair,**

Thank you for convening this meeting to discuss the "Role and Authority of the General Assembly", as well as its relationship with other principal organs of the United Nations and other Groups outside the United Nations.

I would also like to align with the statement made by the distinguished representative from Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Group.

**Mr. Chair,**

We sincerely appreciate your hard work and that of the Secretariat for issuing an updated inventory/chart of resolutions on revitalization pursuant to resolution 66/294. However, a close look into this chart reveals that much remains to be done to enhance the role and effectiveness of this august body.

We need to change it from a mere talk shop to a place where transnational issues that impact each and every one of us are addressed swiftly and truly global effective solutions prescribed.

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 in letter and in spirit.

The 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. In particular, revitalization must restore the primacy of the UN in development matters.

As the United Nations chief deliberative, legislative, policy-making and representative body, it also needs to reinvent itself to contemporary realities.

**Mr. Chair,**

Over the years, it has been amply demonstrated that the prerogatives and authority of the General Assembly have been undermined by the Security Council.

It is critical that a relationship of respect for the respective mandates between the General Assembly and the Security Council are maintained in the spirit of the Charter.

The Council, in particular, should stop its frequent attempts to redefine its scope of competence through wider and permissive interpretations of what constitutes a threat to

international peace and security and including issues that clearly fall within the purview of the General Assembly or the ECOSOC.

Moreover, it is imperative that the General Assembly exercises its judgment in the matter of the appointment of the Secretary General, rather than merely rubber stamping proposals by the Security Council while ensuring that the appointment process does not become a divisive issue between the Assembly and the Council.

In so far as the General Assembly itself is concerned, member states should engage in substantive deliberations in the six main committees instead of rushing to the plenary and or calling for votes without real negotiations in the Committees.

**Mr. Chair,**

In conclusion, please be assured of my delegation's constructive support and steadfast commitment in your efforts to achieve the common goal of ours to revitalize the General Assembly.

Thank You.

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