



[Español](#)

[Home](#) [Mission](#) [Statements in U.N](#) [NAM](#) [Solidarity](#) [Cuba Statements](#) [About Cuba](#)

[Cuban Links](#)

[Cuba Minrex](#)

[Cuba vs Bloqueo](#)

[NAM](#)

[Antiterrorismo](#)

[Families for Justice](#)

[Cinco heroes](#)

[Ernesto Ché Guevara](#)

[Sitio oficial del gobierno cubano](#)

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[Parlamento Cubano](#)

[Cuba Debate](#)

[Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos](#)

[Agencia de Viajes Amistur](#)

[Speeches by the main Cuban Leaders](#)

[Fidel Castro Ruz](#)

[Raúl Castro Ruz](#)

[Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada](#)

[Other Leaders](#)

[Commander Fidel Castro denounces](#)

[Cuban Online News Media](#)

[Cuba against the Blockade](#)



[Press Release](#)

[Report by Cuba on Resolution 63/7](#)

[Report by Cuba on Resolution 62/3](#)

[US Measures and Actions](#)

[News and Statements](#)

[CubavsBlockade](#)

[Five Heroes](#)



[News and Links](#)

[The Untold Story of the Cuban Five . More Information](#)

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Statement by Ambassador Mr. Pedro Núñez Mosquera, Permanent Representative of Cuba, on Agenda Item 118 "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly." New York, 19 November 2009.

Mr. President,

My delegation associates itself with the statements by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group, and would wish to add some remarks on this item.

First, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly for the drafting of the Report on the item, and the efforts made for the advancement in the revitalization process of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

The revitalization of the General Assembly constitutes a determining element of the actual United Nations reform. There cannot be an Organization having more democratic and effective actions, as long as the General Assembly does not exercise fully the faculties provided to it by the Charter.

This revitalization process must be aimed at reaffirming the key role of the General Assembly as the main body for deliberation, policy adoption, and UN representation, as enshrined in the Charter and the Millennium Declaration.

It is important that, at the end of this process, the Assembly strengthen its independence and the fact it is a comprehensive debate body, in which the freedom of its Member States to refer to matters of their interest is not restricted or limited.

If we wish to restore the confidence of the international community in the United Nations, and particularly its credibility before the world public opinion, we must ensure our Organization truly responds to the collective interests of its Member States. That can only be achieved by revitalizing the leadership role of the General Assembly, which is the only UN body where there is no place for hegemonies, all have the right to vote, and the obsolete right of veto does not exist.

The General Assembly can and must examine crucial and urgent matters of international reality to adopt concrete and action-oriented resolutions.

We consider the main problem of the Organization today is precisely the lack of implementation of the numerous Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, which constitute an important set of regulations, but remain inert since their implementation depends on the political will of States having the political, military or economic power to do so. Such situation is also extended to the numerous resolutions on the revitalization of the Assembly, the implementation level of which is very limited.

Mr. President,

We stress the need to attain a proper balance among the main UN bodies, under the Charter, and for Member States to end any attempt to transfer agenda items of the General Assembly to the Security Council.

The Security Council must observe strictly the provisions of the Charter, as well as all General Assembly resolutions as main UN body, and stop the interference in matters clearly within the functions and powers of other bodies.

The Cuban delegation wishes to express its concern for the establishment of norms and definitions by the Security Council that go beyond its competence, neglecting that, under Article 13 of the Charter, the General Assembly has the primary responsibility of the progressive development of international law and its codification.

The revitalization of the Assembly cannot be a bureaucratic process. As Father Miguel D'Escoto wisely said in his farewell address as President of the General Assembly, revitalization is a political rather than a technical issue.

We hope that as a result of the revitalization process, the interaction between the Secretariat and the General Assembly is strengthened, so that the former can respond more effectively to the mandates to be determined by the Member States.

Additionally, as part of the works by the Ad-hoc Working Group on revitalization, a strict control on the implementation of the resolutions on this matter must be kept. Also, the appropriate updating of the summary table, which includes the resolutions on the revitalization of the General Assembly, must be maintained.

We already have an actual legislative arsenal referring to the necessary

revitalization of the main body. The priority is precisely to implement the multiple resolutions already adopted.

Mr. President,

The Cuban delegation wishes to conclude by reiterating its willingness to continue collaborating on the works aimed at achieving the important objective of the revitalization of the General Assembly.

Thank you.



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