

DRAFT

Draft resolution

**A strengthened and revitalized General Assembly:
a culture of relevance and efficiency**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the central role of the General Assembly, the only principal organ of the United Nations consisting of all the Members of the United Nations, as the chief deliberative policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work,¹

Recognizing that the current interdependent and globalized environment requires the strengthening of the multilateral system,

Recognizing that the General Assembly is a universal and representative forum consisting of all Members of the United Nations and that it is the epitome of decision-making at the global level,

Recognizing also that, in order to be effective, relevant and fully utilized, the General Assembly must play its role as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations,

Stressing the need to strengthen the role and authority of the General Assembly so as to establish a culture of relevance and efficiency,

Reaffirming that the legislative responsibility on global matters of concern to the international community lies with the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the plenary meetings of the General Assembly should constitute a forum for high-level policy statements, as well as for the consideration, inter alia, of agenda items of special political importance and/or urgency,

Reaffirming its authority in consideration of all budgetary issues as stipulated in the Charter,

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 and 59/95 of 3 December 2004.

Role, authority and relevance of the General Assembly

1. *Decides* to:

- (a) Convene and organize major thematic debates in order to establish, through consultations with Member States, broad international understanding and agreement on current issues such as poverty, HIV/Aids and other pandemics, environmental threats and natural disasters, children in armed conflict, international terrorism, migration, rule of law and human rights and gender equality;
- (b) Discuss issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 35 of the Charter, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations;
- (c) Consider the annual reports, and, when appropriate, special reports, of the Security Council, in accordance with Articles 15.1 and 24.3 of the Charter, through substantive and interactive debates;
- (d) Hold interactive debates on other reports submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Article 15.2 of the Charter;
- (e) Hold a debate on the use of consensus decision-making in the Plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly;

President of the General Assembly

- 2. *Decides* to elect the President, starting in 2007, no later than six months before the opening of the session over which he/she is to preside, so as to enable the President-elect, until the beginning of his/her term of office, to interact with the President in a flexible manner to be decided by the President;
- 3. *Decides* to strengthen the role and authority of the President of the General Assembly and enhance his/her leadership by:
 - (a) Authorizing the President of the General Assembly, to propose debates on major current issues in the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States;
 - (b) Strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly by allocating two additional posts at management and senior levels to the Office of the President of the General Assembly on a full-time basis, to ensure continuity and institutional knowledge therein;
 - (c) Making available to the President of the General Assembly adequate office and conference space with a view to enabling him/her to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of his/her office;

(d) Requesting the Secretary-General to ensure that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol services at United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations duty stations;

Agenda and working methods of the Plenary and Main Committees of the General Assembly

4. *Decides* to undertake an in-depth review of the agenda and working methods of the General Assembly;
5. *Also decides* to this end to establish an ad hoc intergovernmental working group composed of 21 members, on the basis of 5 members from the African States, 5 members from the Asian States, 3 members from the Eastern European States, 4 members from the Latin American and Caribbean States, and 4 members from the Western European and other States, on the understanding that meetings of the ad hoc intergovernmental working group will be open to all Member States;
6. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to appoint the members of the ad hoc intergovernmental working group in consultation with Member States and to convene the working group as soon as possible;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the ad hoc intergovernmental working group with necessary services;
8. *Decides* that the ad hoc intergovernmental working group shall submit a report to the General Assembly with specific recommendations at its sixtieth session;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on ways to further rationalize the functions of the Plenary and the Main Committees with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the General Assembly and on ways to avoid unnecessary overlap between the policy discussions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
10. *Encourages* the Main Committees to implement in full the provisions contained in paragraph 3 of the annex to resolution 58/316;
11. *Encourages* the Bureaux of the Main Committees to enhance their cooperation and to learn from the best practices of each other;
12. *Requests* the Chairpersons of Main Committees, at the end of their terms of office, to provide a short report on their observations and "lessons learnt" to their immediate successors;
13. *Decides* that time-limits on speeches in the Plenary and in the Main Committees shall be applied in accordance with rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

14. *Decides* to limit explanations of vote to five minutes;
15. *Strongly urges* all officers presiding over United Nations meetings to start such meetings on time;
16. *Encourages* the holding of action-oriented interactive debates;
17. *Encourages* Member States that are aligned with statements already made by a chair of a group of Member States to restrict additional interventions that they make in their national capacity to points that have not already been addressed in the statements of the groups in question;
18. *Encourages* a new culture where Member States present only resolutions with new substantive operational elements, without infringing on the sovereign right of Member States to table resolutions in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and taking into account the status of implementation of previously adopted resolutions;
19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the feasibility of establishing a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of General Assembly resolutions;
20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version, in print and online;
21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a study of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly with a view to making proposals for revisions that may facilitate the work and effectiveness of the Assembly;
22. *Recommends* the introduction of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard;

Documentation

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement further paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 57/300 on the consolidation of reports and paragraph 6 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 on documentation;
24. *Encourages* Member States, with a view to avoiding overlapping and redundancy and facilitating the clustering of reports, to submit consolidated resolutions on related issues;

25. *Encourages* Member States, when seeking additional information, to request to be provided with the information either orally, or if in writing, in the form of information sheets, annexes, tables, rather than having the information presented in the form of detailed reports;
26. *Requests* the Secretariat to ensure that documentation and reports are issued well in advance in keeping with the six-week rule for official documentation, as set out in resolution 49/221;
27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a status report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the measures to strengthen the General Assembly decided in resolutions 58/126, 58/316 and in the present resolution.