



BRAZIL

70th Session of the General Assembly

**Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the
General Assembly**

First meeting

**Statement by
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Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN**

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Co-Chairs,

Allow me to congratulate you on convening this first official meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the General Assembly during its 70th Session. My delegation is convinced that under your co-chairmanship the Working Group will once again make progress towards strengthening the General Assembly's role and in establishing a more inclusive, democratic and transparent process of selecting the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report concerning the update on the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat that have not been implemented yet.

I would also like to refer to the informal meeting on transparency and accountability of the PGA's Office, held by this working group on December 11th. This kind of exercise, which allows all Member States to be heard, should be always encouraged.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

Last September the General Assembly adopted Resolution 69/321 by consensus. This represented an important step towards a more transparent and inclusive process of selection and appointment of the next Secretary General. Among its positive aspects, it establishes informal dialogues or meetings of the General Assembly with candidates, creates more objective criteria relating to the qualities expected of a UNSG, and invites Member States to consider presenting women as candidates.

In this regard, my delegation also welcomes the joint letter issued, on December 15th, by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, which for the first time formally invited the presentation of candidates for the position of UNSG.

We will need to continue improving the process of selection of the next UNSG during this 70th Session. In this regard, all Member-States should use the opportunity represented by the informal meeting with the candidates to inquire about his or her

positions about significant points on the international agenda as well as his or her vision regarding the functioning and the future of the United Nations in a multipolar world. This will undoubtedly help the 193 Member-States to find the best candidate for the position.

In spite of the progress achieved by Resolution 69/321, there are some relevant issues that have not been addressed, such as the possibility of presenting more than one candidate for nomination by the UNGA and the need of guaranteeing an active role for the Assembly during the whole process of selection. We should not be led astray by an incorrect interpretation of article 97 of the UN Charter. The role of the GA does not consist in simply legitimizing the candidate chosen by the UNSC. All Member States - and not only those in the UNSC - should have a role in the selection of the UNSG. The General Assembly must reclaim its role of selecting and nominating the Secretary-General, as defined in the Charter and as revitalized through Resolution 69/321.

My delegation also encourages further debate about the duration of the SG's term and the possibility of re-election. New ideas on these issues have been put forward and should be considered more deeply, among them the 1 for 7 Billion campaign and those championed by the Elders.

Finally, we should use the opportunity presented by this year's resolution on Revitalization of the General Assembly to further discuss the selection of the other executive heads of the United Nations. Our efforts to improve transparency and inclusiveness in this Organization should not stop at the UNSG level, but extend to other important decision-makers, such as the DSG, USGs and ASGs. One of the practices to reconsider is the repeated designation of nationals of the same country to certain positions.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

Another critical issue is the strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, which can only occur if it is provided with sufficient resources in the regular budget of the Organization. The establishment of a code of conduct or specific guidelines for the activities of the PGA and his Office merit our consideration. In this

regard, we would like to commend the current PGA for the transparent manner in which he has worked and encourage future office-holders to continue this practice.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We reaffirm the central role of the General Assembly as the most democratic and representative decision-making body of this Organization, with the presence of all its 193 Members, and the main political forum for the consideration of relevant issues on the international agenda.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We also need to improve the governance structure of the UN System. Member States should benefit from the historical opportunity provided by Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development to reflect broadly on General Assembly agenda and methods of work. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs offer relevant contributions to the work of all Main Committees of the General Assembly and to the ECOSOC. Discussions on the revitalization of the GA must take in consideration the content of the 2030 Agenda so as to reflect its cross-cutting, universal and integrated nature. We need to ensure that the entire General Assembly is involved in its implementation in a coherent manner.

Finally, we call on all Member States to help identify and eliminate constraints on the implementation of UNGA resolutions, and we encourage the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue to review and update the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization. Thank you.”