

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement
of The Arab Republic of Egypt**

**Before
The 63rd Session of the General Assembly**

**By
First Secretary/ Hesham Afifi**

**On Agenda Item 110:
“Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”**

Mr. President,

The General Assembly is debating today one of the most important items on its Agenda. An item that acquires its importance from the nature of the role and authority of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as the chief deliberative and policymaking body, as well as the most democratic organ of the Organization, not only because it comprises all the Member States, but also due to its responsibility for supervising the balance of authorities and obligations of the main and subsidiary organs, and observing the implementation of their mandates and take the necessary measures to fulfill them, if deemed necessary.

Egypt associates itself with the Statement made by the Permanent Representative of Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, however, I would like to stress on a number of important points:

First :

The revitalization of the role of the General Assembly should be based on supervising the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly on this issue, at the time it continues to negotiate on additional steps aiming at further revitalization of the General Assembly on the other hand, in accordance with our agreement in this regard during the Sixty Second Session. Those endeavors will not be successful if we limit our actions to rationalizing the agenda and mandates of the General Assembly and its main committees, or if we attempt to reduce number of meetings or volume of reports submitted to them. It should rather be revitalized through a clear plan based on a comprehensive strategy aiming at enhancing the capacity of the General Assembly in undertaking its responsibilities and in responding effectively to the rapid international developments as well as addressing the needs of the peoples worldwide .

Second:

Despite the success of the election process of the eighth Secretary General of the Organization, and his appointment by the General Assembly by consensus upon recommendation of the Security Council, the deliberations on the responsibility and authority of the General Assembly in this regard vis-à-vis the responsibility of the Security Council highlighted the necessity of continuing our search for ways and means to increase the role of the General Assembly in this process in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, as well as its resolutions 51/241 and 60/286, and through establishing a clear mechanism that allows the Assembly to evaluate the candidates for the position and submit their names to the Security Council to consider them, in addition to overseeing the criteria that governs the recommendations that the Council submits to the General Assembly, without prejudice to the role of the Security Council in making recommendations on one hand and the authority of the General Assembly in approving such recommendation and appointing the recommended candidate or suggest alternative candidates to the Council on the other hand.

Third:

It is imperative to bring to an end the increasing attempts of encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly by the Security Council and to ensure the full respect for the functions and powers of the principal organs of the United Nations as stipulated in the Charter, as well as strengthening the prerogatives of the General Assembly in overseeing the way the Security Council is undertaking its main responsibilities,

which requires fixing the artificial imbalance in the relation between the two organs. This should not be viewed as an attempt to cut from the prerogatives of the Council in favor of the General Assembly, taking into account the distinction between these prerogatives on one hand, which justifies the mere reasoning of their presence, as well as the fact that the Members of the Council happen to be Members of the General Assembly on the other hand, which makes the promotion and respect of these functions and striking the balance between them an objective and an interest that will positively impact on the entire work of the Organization.

Fourth:

The importance of promoting the principal role of the General Assembly in areas related to International Peace and Security, in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 35 of the Charter. This role should not be only limited to financing the United Nations' missions in regions of wars and conflicts, but rather in playing a real and concrete role in their prevention, as well as contributing to efforts aimed at achieving settlement of current disputes. This is also related to the need for enhancing the capacity of the General Assembly in addressing cases where the Security Council fails to undertake responsibilities conferred on it for the maintenance of international peace and security, due to the abuse of the right of veto, in a manner that reflects the lack of the Council's capacity to comprehend the nature and dimensions of a number of important conflicts that threaten the international stability, and which adversely impact on the possibilities of settling those issues and increase the suffering of people.

Fifth :

In the same context, it is important to enhance the capacity of the General Assembly and its relevant committees in the context of reforming the Organization, with full respect of the fundamental rule of "One Country, One Vote", without imposing obstacles on implementing its legislative mandates, or trying to undermine its oversight role in this regard, by using the financial contributions, which is assessed based on the principal of the capacity to pay, to exercise pressure on the Secretariat and its impartiality. This indicates the need for restoring the trust and the confidence between Member States, developing and developed, and the Secretariat, on more just basis that allow the General Assembly to undertake its responsibilities without pressure or conditions.

Mr. President,

Your call in the opening of the Sixty-Third Session of the Assembly to "democratize" the United Nations were based on highly important considerations. Those considerations were behind the importance which Heads of State and Government attached in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document to the necessity of the adherence, within the context of the United Nations reform, to the purposes and the principles of its Charter, and their reaffirmation that the credibility of the Organization and increasing its capacity to fulfill its responsibilities is increasingly linked to the ability of the General Assembly to exercise its institutional prerogatives. As we look forward to participating actively in the relevant "High Level Dialogue" which you expressed your intention to convene during the session, we hope that this dialogue lead to sincere effort to achieve a global agreement on a number of steps, aiming at enhancing the capacity of the General Assembly in undertaking its role, which is becoming unjustifiably controversial due to the desire of few to encroach on this role by other main or subsidiary bodies, in clear contradiction with the principals and objectives of the United Nations.