



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
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22 March 2006

Excellency,

With our last meeting on 16 March, we have completed the general debate-segment of the work in the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly. As Co-Chairs we are grateful to you for your active participation and inputs so far. As the next step, we propose that we will now proceed to discuss clusters of themes in a series of four meetings.

Please find attached a broad outline of the agenda and the tentative timetable for the forthcoming thematic meetings of the working group. Based on the input received from Member States during the general debate, we propose that two meetings will be devoted to matters related to the role and authority of the General Assembly, one meeting to the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly, and one meeting to the role of the General Assembly in the selection of the Secretary-General. We have also indicated some specific matters that may be raised during each thematic meeting. While inspired by your contributions, the listings are by no means exhaustive.

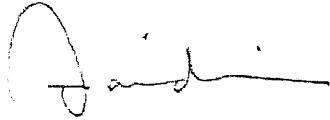
Following the attached outline, we have the honour to invite you to the fourth (and the first thematic) meeting of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Wednesday, 29 March at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

The overall theme will be the role and authority of the General Assembly. You may wish to address issues pertaining *inter alia* to the relationship between the General Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations, and measures to strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly. We would also encourage you to put forward concrete proposals for the consideration of the working group.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

The President of the General Assembly, Mr Jan Eliasson, has agreed to join us for the first part of the meeting on 29 March and he will also make a short address.

Yours sincerely,



Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi
Co-Chair



Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna
Co-Chair

22 MARCH 2006
CO-CHAIRS' OUTLINE OF THEMATIC MEETINGS FOR
THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON REVITALIZATION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For thematic meeting Nr.1 (29 March 2006)

I) Role and Authority of the General Assembly

A. The relationship between the GA and other organs of the United Nations system

How to ensure increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (res 58/126)?

How to encourage periodical subject-oriented, more analytical reports from the Security Council to the General Assembly (res 58/126)?

B. The Presidency of the GA

How to further strengthen the Office of the President of the General Assembly? By extending the term of the President of the GA and/or electing the President of GA earlier ?

As the role of the President of the General Assembly is growing, would his office need to be strengthened and given stronger support by the Secretariat?

For thematic meeting Nr.2 (6 April 2006)

C. Substance of debates and resolutions, relevance of GA work

Could the General Assembly effectively revitalize itself by focusing thematically on current issue of global relevance – such as water, disaster relief, global epidemics etc. (discussion of such issues can take place after December in the resumed part of the session)?

How could the General Assembly play a more robust role in the implementation of major UN world summit decisions (MDGs) etc?

How to ensure that the General Assembly will adopt more concise, focused and action-oriented resolutions with discernible impact on the world?

In what ways could the General Assembly consider greater participation by and interaction with NGOs and other key players (private sector, parliaments etc.) in its work?

How can the work of the General Assembly be made more visible to the public?

For thematic meeting Nr.3 (date to be announced)

II) Working Methods and Agenda of the General Assembly

A. Agenda

How do we go about re-examining and streamlining the agenda of the General Assembly in order to avoid redundancy and ease the burden on small delegations?

Is a mechanism to monitor implementation of GA resolutions necessary? Would an annual chart on implementation be advisable?

How can we avoid the apparent duplication of work between the plenary and the Main committees?

B. Rationalization of the work of Main Committees

In order to achieve a better balance of workload between the Main Committees, should there be a reassignment of items from one committee to another?

Should the Main Committees be asked to reconsider the time allotted to the consideration of given items?

Could further cluster and/or eliminating of items be considered?

C. Role of the General Committee

What role may the General Committee play in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work?

What role may the General Committee play in reviewing the agenda of the General Assembly?

D. Elections

Do we need to rethink the process of elections in the General Assembly, particularly elections of judges to various international tribunals?

What is the status of implementation of the recommendation to consider the use of optical scanners during elections in the General Assembly?

E. Documentation

How do we ensure that the amount of documentation, including the number of reports asked of the Secretary-General will be reduced?

Should we consider a rearrangement in the U.N. Daily Journal so that meetings of the General Assembly are listed first?

For thematic meeting Nr.4 (date to be announced)

III) Role of GA in Election of the Secretary-General

How do we revitalize the role of the General Assembly in this respect?