Statement
by
H.E. Mr. Sabri BOUKADOUM,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement
at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly

on the agenda item 118:
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly
Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, allow me to express the gratitude of the members of the NAM to H.E Mr. Frantisek RUZICKA, the Permanent Representative of Slovakia, and H.E Mr. Norachit SINHASENI, the Permanent Representative of Thailand for their tireless efforts and excellent work in chairing the Ad-Hoc working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly during the sixty-eight session. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E Mr. Wilfred I. EMVULA, the Permanent Representative of Namibia, and H.E Mr. Vladimir DROBNJAK, the Permanent Representative of Croatia, for their appointment as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group during the sixty-ninth session and wish them every success in discharging their duties.

The NAM welcomes the adoption of the resolution 68/307, in last September, by which the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Working Group to discuss the issues related to the Revitalization of the General Assembly, during the 69th session.

The Non Aligned Movement underlines that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a political process rather than a procedural matter, aiming mainly at strengthening the role of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations in the wider UN system. This process should therefore be conducted in an inclusive, transparent and efficient manner. Hence, the Movement reiterates the importance of the Revitalization of the General Assembly as an item that deserves a consideration at an equal footing with other reform processes and important topics of the United Nations agenda.

Mr. President

We wish to reaffirm the role and authority of the General Assembly, including in questions related to international peace and security, and its inter-governmental, inclusive and democratic character which have immensely contributed to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the goals of the Organization. The Group reaffirms as well the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations as such and draws the attention on the necessity to consult with Members States on the initiatives and activities undertaken within the organization, and the right of all Member States to express their positions, before the General Assembly at any time when they wish doing so.

The United Nations General Assembly, as the policy making organ of the Organization, holds the authority and the essential role of drawing the framework, setting the principles and identifying the objectives for the wider United Nations system and its numerous organs, agencies and Programmes. Furthermore, the General Assembly should remain the principal organ that reviews the work of all its subsidiary organs and bodies.
The General Assembly should also maintain its role and mandate in setting the priorities of the United Nations in considering all budgetary and administrative issues and reforms, including its absolute authority to allocate and reallocate financial and human resources, and in the appointment of senior officials in the Secretariat, in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions. In this regard, prerogatives of the General Assembly, as the chief oversight organ of the Organization, including on management and procurement for Peacekeeping Operations, must be respected.

The NAM, while expressing its readiness to continue to support all ongoing efforts to strengthen the central role and authority of the Assembly, wishes to state that it will oppose any approach that seeks to undermine or minimize the achievements of the General Assembly, diminish its current role and functioning or raise questions about its relevance and credibility.

Mr. President

The Movement recalls the decision taken in paragraph 4 of the resolution 68/307 requesting the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue the process of the comprehensive review of the inventory on the status of implementation of the resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly and to issue an updated version, as well as the request to the Secretary General to submit an update on the related provisions that have not been implemented with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind the lack of implementation.

Furthermore, the Group believes firmly, as outlined in the resolution 68/307 in paragraph 7, that implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, enhances the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their full implementation.

The political will is indeed key to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

In this regard, the NAM welcomes the decision to issue during the 69th session, annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the updated inventory/chart of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization. Such annex will give to the Member States the opportunity to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the previous resolutions since the 63rd session.

Mr. President

I would like to seize this opportunity to state that the NAM emphasizes the need to fully respect the functions and powers of each principal organ of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and to maintain the balance among these organs within their respective Charter-based functions and powers. In this regard, the Security Council must fully observe all Charter provisions as well as all
General Assembly resolutions which clarify its relationship with the latter organ and other principal organs.

In this context, the NAM expresses again its concern, raised during previous sessions, with regard to the continuous attempt from the Security Council to encroach on powers and prerogatives of the General Assembly. In fact, the Article 24 paragraph 1 of the Charter does not provide the Security Council with the competence to address issues which fall within the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In the same vein, the NAM reiterates its request to the Security Council to submit a more explanatory, comprehensive and analytical annual report to the General Assembly, assessing the work of the Council, including such cases in which the Council has failed to act.

Furthermore, in previous resolutions (Resolution 58/126, 59/313 and 60/286, annex, para. 7), the General Assembly invited the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter, special subject oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern. Since the adoption of resolution 58/126 no special subject-oriented reports have been formally submitted to the General Assembly. The special subjects are to some extent only covered by the monthly assessments presented by the Presidents of the Security Council.

Moreover, the NAM is convinced that activities of the “Special Committee on the Charter and on the strengthening the role of the Organization” will contribute greatly to the whole process of revitalization. In this context, the NAM supports in particular the two proposals that are discussed by the Special Committee:

- The creation of an “open-ended working Group to study the proper implementation of the Charter of the United Nations with respect to the functional relationship of its organs”,
- The working paper on the “Strengthening of the Role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness”.

**Mr. President**

Among other prerogatives and mandates of the General Assembly, there is the issue of the selection and appointment of Secretaries-General of the United Nations. The NAM considers this question of utmost importance.

In this context, the NAM reaffirms the need for the selection of Secretary-General to be more transparent and inclusive of all Member States. The NAM deplores that up to now no consultations upon the appointment of a new Secretary General have taken place as reflected in the updated inventory/chart annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group. The Movement emphasizes, therefore, the necessity that the participation of the General Assembly to the selection and the appointment of
the future Secretary Generals should be more active, effective and efficient, in conformity with the UN Charter and Rules of Procedures of the General Assembly, and in accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 51/241, 60/286, 64/301, 66/294, 67/297 and 68/307.

The NAM stresses, in this regard, the importance of the full implementation of the aforementioned resolutions to the immediate next process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General.

The NAM encourages in the run of the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General which expected to take place in 2016 timely hearings or meetings of the General Assembly for an exchange of views and dialogue with candidates running for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations and encourages the President of the General Assembly to play a pro-active role in this process.

Mr. President

The Movement emphasizes the importance of ensuring the effectiveness of the office of the PGA, including through the strengthening of its institutional memory.

While noting with appreciation the progress already achieved in this regard, we are of the view that a particular effort should be devoted to the implementation of the already existing resolutions on this matter as well as identifying, during the upcoming discussions of the Working group, ways and means to pursue progressively and with determination this objective.

It is clear that while the prerogatives of the President of the General Assembly have not changed, his role and his activities have evolved over the past years both in adapting to the growing activities, conferences, and initiatives of the Assembly, performing official protocol functions, in representing the Assembly over the world, and making the work of the General Assembly more known and more visible.

Therefore, the activities of the office of the PGA have increased drastically over the years. The agenda of the Assembly and consequently that of its President include a tremendous number of issues. The expansion of activities of the General Assembly including the yearly adoption of more or less 300 resolutions and decisions, the establishment of Working groups and facilitations that convene meetings and consultations all over the year, has made the presence of the President and his or her active participation necessary during the whole session. Moreover, the workload of the General Assembly is no longer limited to its main session but rather covering the whole period from opening of the session in September to its closing. These increasing and tremendous activities should of course be matched with all the necessary resources both human and financial.
Hence, in order to provide further insight upon the diversity and complexity of the activities and duties of the PGA, the NAM recalls the request of the Member States addressed to the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report at the sixty-eighth session, to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the role, mandate and activities of the President of the General Assembly.

In the same spirit, the Movement seeks more clarification regarding the budgetary basis for the provision by the Secretariat on sources of the funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the Assembly, as stipulated in the paragraph 35 of the resolution 68/307.

The Movement recalls, in this regard, that the resolution 68/307 requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of General Assembly.

In conclusion, the NAM reaffirms that a reinvigorated General Assembly, in a more responsive environment, exerting fully its role and authority would significantly contribute to the strengthening of the wider United Nations system and to the improvement of the international governance and enhancement of multilateralism.

I thank you.