69th Session of the General Assembly

Statement

H. E. Ambassador Desra Percaya
Permanent Representative

Agenda item 118: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

New York, 18 November 2014
Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation thanks you for convening this vital debate on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. We wish to thank Ambassador Ružička of Slovakia and Ambassador Sinhaseni of Thailand for their valuable leadership of the Ad-hoc Working Group and their hard work during the 68th Session.

We also congratulate the new Co-facilitators, Ambassador Drobnjak of Croatia and Ambassador Emvula of Namibia. Indonesian delegation assures them of its wholehearted support in their stewardship of the Working Group’s work to help realise a General Assembly, which can become a powerful pivot to achieve a more peaceful and prosperous world for all people.

Indonesia associates itself with the statements by the distinguished representatives of Algeria on behalf of NAM, and Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. President,

As the 70th anniversary of our United Nations approaches next year, this debate and the forthcoming sessions of the Working Group are very important in taking stock of the revitalization efforts so far, and deliberating how a more robust, widespread and dedicated undertaking can be developed that strengthens the Assembly’s functioning.

Certainly, since the General Assembly revitalization became a distinct agenda item in 1991 and following the 2005 World Summit when the Ad-hoc Working Group was formed, much important work with some results has transpired under the Group’s four thematic clusters for which the Group can rightly be proud.

Yet for the Assembly to be truly the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN, as envisaged in the Charter, there remains a gap in ensuring that the Assembly will indeed be the universal parliament of nations with corresponding influence on international affairs of concern to its membership.
My delegation has participated actively in the Ad-hoc Working Group over the years. Among the meetings in the past session, very important discussions took place with the Chairs of the Main Committees on improving the Committees' working methods; deepening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly; improving the selection and appointment process of the Secretaries-General and other UN executive heads; and enhancing the Assembly's role and authority.

Unquestionably, Indonesia stands for a meaningful progress on the aforementioned issues because our domestic stakeholders demand such progress. We will continue to play our role in advancing the Group's efforts to supporting the Assembly in assuming its rightful place in the global affairs in an effective manner.

But the Group can only do so much. While its meetings and processes, including the Inventory Chart of decisions and actions, accompanying the Group's annual reports, remain highly useful in monitoring and orienting efforts toward bolstering the Assembly's status, the Assembly's revitalization is fundamentally a political process.

It will require a significantly greater political resolve by everyone with sincere implementation of the existing Assembly resolutions on revitalization.

The Resolution A/68/307, adopted by consensus on 10 September 2014, reflects the keenness of the Member States to reinforce the gravity of the Assembly's reform and to bolster its functioning as an invaluable UN Principal Organ.

It is in this context that we wish to reiterate the importance of the General Assembly's role and scope, in particular in the realm of international peace and security. We indeed believe that the Assembly can be more assertive in assuming the rightful role on issues of peace and security, of which all members need to support. We are concerned at the continuing shift of issues or encroachment of issues, which traditionally fall within the purview of the General Assembly to the Security Council. All UN member states, in our view, should and must have a stake and say on issues pertaining to international peace and security.
Mr. President,

If we work together better, cooperate more, and most importantly, are ready to exercise our respective political principal to empower the General Assembly to fully perform its Charter-mandated role, we have no doubt that the much sought after and effective revitalization of the Assembly will indeed materialise.

Indonesia calls upon all countries to display their political will and support the Working Group’s work to help attain a General Assembly that is able to optimally heed the calls of the whole spectrum of the international community in all social, political, peace and security dimensions.

Thank you.