General Assembly

Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative
Ambassador Carlos Duarte

11 September 2015

(Please check against delivery)
Thank you Mr. President,

Brazil welcomes the adoption by consensus of this important resolution of Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

This year's resolution introduced important changes to the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General, specially with regard to its transparency.

The process will be initiated by a joint letter of the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, addressed to all Member States and soliciting candidates for the position of the Secretary-General. The name of individuals submitted for consideration will also be circulated on a ongoing basis. The General Assembly will from now on conduct informal dialogues or meetings with the candidates to the position. We agreed on more objective criteria for the qualities expected of a Secretary-General. And there is also an invitation for Member States to consider presenting women as candidates for the position.

These are all significant achievements. We were able to use a narrow window of opportunity to ensure that the next process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General, expected to happen next year, will be more transparent that in previous years.

In this regard, we would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, Ambassador
Vladimir Drobnjak of Croatia and Ambassador Wilfred I. Emvula of Namibia, for their excellent work.

Mr. President,

During the negotiation of the document just adopted, Brazil has also defended other proposals that, unfortunately, were not included in this consensual resolution.

Important questions were not, however, addressed by this resolution, such as to how to ensure a more active role for the General Assembly in nominating the Secretary General, according to article 97 of the Charter, so as not to merely rubberstamp a decision by the Security Council; and the possibility of the Security Council sending more than one name for consideration by the GA.

Moreover, and although supported by a substantial number of delegations, language including a suggestion to discuss the duration of appointment and renewability of the term of office of the Secretary-General could not be included in this resolution for the sake of consensus.

These are some of the questions that need to continue to be discussed next year and in years to come.

Mr. President,
The process of selection and appointment of the Secretary-General is of utmost importance for this Organization, and Brazil reiterates its commitment to improve it in order to make it more inclusive, plural and in tune with an increasingly multipolar world.

Thank you.