

Statement by H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations, at Plenary of the General Assembly on Agenda Item 120, 121: Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations & Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (13 November 2017)

As delivered

Mr. President,

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union. I wish to make a few additional points in my national capacity.

Let me start by thanking you, the President of the General Assembly, for convening this plenary debate on the *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly* and inviting us to speak. His role and leadership in making the work of the General Assembly more focused, efficient and relevant is commendable and vital. In this respect, we welcome his commitment to strengthening further the position and authority of the General Assembly in the global governance system. We also welcome your efforts to deepen the culture of collaboration, dialogue, consensus-building and inclusiveness in the work of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Croatia and the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates for their leadership and important work last year. We are happy to see Ambassador Drobnjak continue as Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) again this year. With pleasure we welcome the Permanent Representative of Colombia, Ambassador María Emma Mejía Vélez as the new Co-chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group during the 72nd session of the General Assembly. You can count on our support of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group during this session.

Mr. President,

The 69th to 71st sessions showed that the UN General Assembly can make significant achievements in relation to its revitalization process ranging from issues like enhancing appointments including and in particular of the Secretary-General, voting and balloting processes, through strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly to streamlining the working methods. We call for full implementation of these and other relevant provisions with a view to making the GA work even more substantive and relevant in the future.

Mr. President,

We should continue during this session to make further strides in pursuit of our common goal to revitalize the Assembly in order to make it a truly deliberative and functional body. Going forward, I believe that among other important issues we could make further advancement in relation to the following:

1. Process of aligning the GA's work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. Strengthening further the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, also in the context of the ongoing negotiations of the regular budget for the new biennium 2018-2019;

3. Relationship between the General Assembly and the other principal organs to ensure better coordination on issues that require coordinated action by the United Nations, in accordance with their respective mandate;
4. Consideration of lessons learned and best practices from the SG selection process;
5. Advancing gender equality in relation to the work of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

In conclusion: My delegation looks forward to engaging with you and Member States in result-oriented negotiations during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in order to further improve the organization's ability to make relevant contribution to global peace, prosperity, sustainable development and human rights.

Thank you for your attention.