



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

by

Mr. Róbert Chatrnúch

**Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

at the

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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly - Item 122

- General debate of the Ad-Hoc Working Group -

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New York**

Dear Co-chairs,

Slovakia associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union earlier today. Allow me to make a few additional observations in the national capacity.

First of all, I would like to congratulate to Ambassador Egriselda López, the Permanent Representative of El Salvador for reappointment and to Ambassador Mitch Fifield, the Permanent Representative of Australia for appointment to the capacity of co-chairs of the Ad-hoc Working group. We have two strong and experienced persons at the helm of this important process and **they both deserve our full confidence for their demanding roles**. You can count on our unwavering support.

The revitalization is a very long process, a living and developing organism, that deserves member states' full attention and contribution. As one of the toughest mandated processes it requires full determination and constructive approach of every individual member state if our common goal is to make the General Assembly more prepared and more effective UN body for the new challenges. It could not happen without **common trust that was evident during all these years**.

Unfortunately, **this spirit of trust has been severely shattered by Russia' unprovoked and unjustified military attack on its neighbor and fellow UN member Ukraine** - in blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law, which we condemn in the strongest terms. We are appalled by the senseless loss of life and suffering wrecked upon Ukraine and stand in full solidarity with the country and its people. We also pay our highest respect to Ukraine for continuing to engage actively and constructively here at the UN amidst the horrific situation back home. We demand that Russia immediately ceases its use of force and withdraws all of its military forces.

Dear Co-Chairs,

The bi-annualisation of the resolution - as one of the most tangible legacy from previous session – give us **more time now to look better on the two thematic clusters, namely a) the role and the authority of the General assembly and b) working methods.**

Every year so far, we were driven by the necessity to reach a consensual text of the revitalization resolution that took a significant pile of our time, consuming significant portion of our attention to put new and new initiatives and recommendations on the paper. Unfortunately, **during all these years we forgot one thing, but very important one: That any kind of initiative, good or better, is nothing else than the missed opportunity when it remains left untouched on the paper.**

Dear colleagues, we totally forgot that the various glitches lie somewhere else – in the success or failure of implementation of the existing takes. But we have unique opportunity this session. So **let's use this extra time to stop a bit, stop rushing ourselves, we have still other homework to do: to properly go through the inventory list of so far agreed recommendations and holistically discuss the ways how to make them happen in real life and everyday work of the General Assembly.**

Further streamlining of the work of the General Assembly is and must be the top priority for all of us. Seeing that the revitalization process is led by example is nice and pleasant, but not sufficient, if this mindset will not be adopted more largely, to various resolutions across all main committees. **Bi-ennialisation, tri-ennialisation as well as alignment process to reduce gaps, duplicates and overlaps between the General Assembly and ECOSOC are the areas that deserve our closer look this year.**

Another area that needs our attention are the provisions of those past GA revitalization resolutions that have not yet been implemented. We look forward to hear some update on this, preferably during the planned interactive dialogue with the UN Secretariat on 14th of June this year.

We also need to shift for higher grade when it **comes the lessons-learned from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** and how to transform this bad experience into the unique chance to modernize the work of the General Assembly. COVID-19 pandemic has hit our organization unprepared to react swiftly to new, unpredictable challenges. Although we have showed a huge determination to solve the things on the move, **the current stay of play and equipment of the UN with new technologies are still questionable. We have to discuss new ways of implementing new technologies to secure smooth running of the General Assembly, regardless of the magnitude of the new potential challenges** laying in front of us.

Dear Co-chairs,

Slovakia looks forward to engaging constructively throughout this process.

I thank you.