



*Misión Permanente de El Salvador  
ante las Naciones Unidas*

## **Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**

### **STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE EL SALVADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)**

**New York, 06 November 2018**

Mr. President,

My delegation has the honor to speak on behalf of the Thirty-Three Members States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States considers that a stronger, more effective and transparent United Nations Organization can only be achieved through the harmonious work of the various parts of the United Nations system, especially its organs and States members.

The General Assembly where Member States are represented in an egalitarian, inclusive and democratic manner, plays a crucial role and demonstrates the universal character of the Organization and the principle of sovereign equality of all its Member recognized in the Charter of the Nations United.

CELAC therefore reiterates not only its support but also its commitment to work with the General Assembly in order to achieve greater efficiency, which is vital for the international community.

We are convinced of the need to fully respect the competence and authority of the General Assembly and its role in setting standards in administrative and budgetary matters.



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At the present, it is inconceivable to think of a United Nations Organization in line with contemporary systems of international relations without a General Assembly as the central forum for multilateral discussions and work.

Mr. President,

Member States of CELAC consider that it is possible to continue implementing improvements to the benefit of its members and the General Assembly.

Similarly, as we have indicated on previous occasions, CELAC believes in the usefulness of organizing thematic debates in order to discuss specific issues of critical importance to the international community.

Also, we recognize the improvements made in the scheduling of the meetings; however, we call upon the General Committee as well as the Secretariat to improve coordination in order to avoid schedule conflicts between the General Assembly's plenary sessions and subsidiary bodies meetings which are followed by experts dealing with the relevant Commission.

Important debates often coincide in periods with special requirements, such as the high-level segment of the general debate, or the main part of the Committees or the General Assembly itself, which has a special impact on Permanent Missions with few delegates, thus affecting not only the attendance but also the quality of the substantive debates. Therefore, additional planning efforts are needed, to ensure inclusive and efficient efficiency.

The member states of CELAC emphasize the need for cooperation and coordination among all major United Nations bodies must be consistent with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions, which should be shown on the agenda and program of work of the organs, to strengthen relations with efficiency, broad coherence, complementarity and mutual respect.



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CELAC members would also like to highlight the importance and the value of holding a week devoted to International Law, and in particular of the time allocated for the Meeting of Legal Advisers. In this sense, and taking into account the technical depth of its debates, CELAC considers that the time allocated to the annual meeting of legal advisors should be maintained without creating conflicts of schedule with other activities of the Sixth Committee, as it has now been developing. CELAC would also like to stress the need for interventions by delegations to be kept under a reasonable amount of time, especially during the ILC debate. If more at-length comments are required, delegations can share a written version.

Mr. President,

As in previous years, CELAC Member States wish to emphasize the full and effective implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions on multilingualism; we also reiterate the need to ensure that the six official languages of the Organization are treated equally. This task should not be hampered by excuses related to matters of a budgetary nature.

Mr. President,

Revitalizing the General Assembly involves constantly updating its working methods, so as to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

CELAC wishes to highlight the usefulness of the electronic co-sponsorship system as well as the electronic list of speakers, tools that had been introduced in other Committees in previous sessions. We are pleased that this Committee started using these tools in this session. We also welcome the practice of sharing the provisional list of speakers through e-mail before the plenary debate. Regarding the e-delegate platform, we recognize its usefulness for uploading draft resolutions in its application during the seventy-third session.

Reflecting on the agenda items examined by the Committees is another way of revitalizing the General Assembly. On this regard, CELAC On this regard, CELAC welcomes the inclusion of the topic "Strengthening and



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promoting the international treaty framework" in the agenda of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, providing an opportunity to review the regulations for the registration of treaties under Article 102 of the Charter. We encourage all Member States to continue reflecting of possible new topics for the agenda of the Sixth Committee, ensuring that current and relevant debates on international law are discussed within the United Nations.

Mr. President,

We welcomed resolutions A / RES / 69/321, A / 70/305 and A / 71/323 on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, in which Member States worked together to identify new ways of improving the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly and also underlines the need for the full and timely implementation of these resolutions.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States continues to encourage the Secretary-General to take effective measures for the fair and equitable distribution of posts throughout the organization, including senior posts, according to gender and geographic balance, and ensuring the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity.

Finally, CELAC believes that all States are responsible for providing the United Nations with the kind of leadership it needs and deserves, in order to continue to make this world a better place, especially for our future generations.

Before concluding, we wish to thank you for keeping the curtains of the Trusteeship Council Chamber opened, providing natural light to come into this room, we trust that this practice will be continued in the following sessions.

Thank you very much.