



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 February 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a letter from H. E. Mrs. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana and H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia, co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.

I thank you in advance for your delegation's active participation, constructive engagement and support in this process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande'.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



New York, 12 February 2020

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (AHWG) during the 74th session of the General Assembly appointed by the President of the General Assembly to lead, during this session, our collective endeavours aimed at further enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the UN's main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ.

We are fully committed to working closely with all UN Member States on this important task that deserves our close attention and has considerable political significance for the work of the United Nations, as well as for the overall state of multilateralism. We believe the context of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations even further underscores the utmost importance of our joint endeavours as regards the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. We shall spare no effort in order to achieve a substantial negotiated outcome during the 74th session of the General Assembly, implementing all previously agreed measures and building upon all previous achievements and efforts, in particular since the 69th session.

We would like to invite you to the **general debate of the AHWG, which will be held on Monday, 2nd March 2020, at 3 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber**, with the opening statement by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande and a briefing by UN Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, Mr. Movses Abelian.

(If necessary, the general debate will continue on Tuesday, 3rd March 2020 at 3 p.m. in Conference Room 2).

In line with the established practice, the updated Inventory Chart of the implementation status of revitalization resolutions will be available before the first meeting of the AHWG (www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/).

The aim of the general debate is to discuss the way forward, building on the progress achieved during previous sessions, as well as on previous UNGA resolutions. Some of the key areas, where we believe we could focus our efforts most, are:

- Streamlining and rationalizing the UNGA agenda and enhancing the interactive nature of discussions during the meetings;

**All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York**

- Streamlining and rationalizing the number of high-level events;
- Streamlining and rationalizing the number of side events, mainly during high-level weeks;
- Achieving greater coherence and coordination in the work of the six main committees, including on cross-cutting issues and in their own revitalization efforts, while taking better advantage of the lessons learned to address existing gaps, overlaps and duplications.

In addition, allow us to kindly remind you of some key issues highlighted in the letter of the President of the General Assembly dated 21st October 2019, contained specifically in OP 12 – 15 of RES/A/73/341:

“OP 12. Also recalls the need to enhance synergies and coherence by addressing gaps, overlaps and duplication where they are found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

OP 13. Requests the General Committee, while exercising its functions under rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to pay special attention to reduction of such overlap;

OP 14. Stresses the need to limit the number of high-level events in the margins of the general debate;

OP 15. Underlines the urgent need to preserve the primacy of the general debate of the General Assembly and for Member States and the United Nations system to singly and collectively limit the number of side events held in parallel with or in the margins of the general debate.”

In the same letter, the President of the General Assembly also emphasized: “Also, as conveyed by the Secretary-General, the liquidity crisis of the United Nations is threatening its ability to fully implement the various initiatives mandated by Member States. In this regard, there is a need to curb the duplication and proliferation of mandated events in order to make the work of our Organization more efficient, effective and accountable to the people we serve.”

Furthermore, we would also like to draw your kind attention to the following tentative programme of work for the upcoming four thematic debates and the interactive dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat (A/RES/71/323). This streamlined tentative programme of work is based on previous practice and lessons learned and it also takes into account the current financial situation of the UN and the need to achieve additional savings wherever possible:

1. **Thursday, 12th March 2020 at 10 a.m.** in the ECOSOC Chamber (**thematic debate on working methods**, including on coherence and coordination among the six main committees and the role of the General Committee)

2. **Thursday, 12th March 2020 at 3 p.m.** in the ECOSOC Chamber (**thematic debate on GA role and authority**, including on public diplomacy and global communications)
3. **Thursday, 19th March 2020 at 3 p.m.** in Conference Room 2 (**informal dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat**, including on operational support, management strategy, policy & compliance, safety & security, use of UN premises, etc.)
4. **Monday, 6th April 2020 at 10 a.m.** in the Trusteeship Council Chamber (**thematic debate on SG selection process**)
5. **Tuesday, 21st April 2020 at 10 a.m.** in the ECOSOC Chamber (**thematic debate on Office of the PGA**)

In addition, we are pleased to inform you that the e-speakers and e-announcements modules of the [e-deleGATE](#) portal have now been enabled also for the AHWG for the 74th session. E-mail announcements, including the updated versions of the draft resolution, will now be sent via the [e-deleGATE](#) portal to the registered delegations only. In this regard, delegates participating in the work of the AHWG are kindly invited to obtain *access rights* to the AHWG in the [e-deleGATE](#) portal at <https://delegate.un.int> through the “Access Administrators” in their respective Permanent Missions using the Access Management feature.

Excellency,

We would like to encourage you personally, as well as senior members of your delegation, to take an active part in these meetings and the work of the AHWG during this session. We believe that the work of the AHWG could immensely benefit from the right balance between political oversight and guidance at the Permanent Representative level, as well as dedicated technical and substantive expertise. We also encourage Member States to take full advantage of the informal dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat to make specific and concrete recommendations for enhancing services and the operation of the UN premises.

We also believe that, through our collective and shared ownership, responsibility and dedication, we can achieve further substantive progress in the area of revitalization of the work of the General Assembly during this session. AHWG is our own platform and our own tool to achieve that goal. We should not shy away from being bold, creative and result-oriented, and from leading by example, like during numerous previous sessions, including some recent ones.

On our part, we are committed as Co-chairs to working tirelessly with all Member States and conducting our work in an inclusive, transparent and efficient manner. We remain fully at your disposal for informal consultations and are open for any ideas or proposals at any time during the whole process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ghana
to the United Nations



Michal Mlynár
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations