



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 February 2019

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to forward herewith a letter dated 5 February 2019 from the co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (AHWG), H.E. Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, Permanent Representative of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynar, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic, announcing the first meeting of the AHWG and containing its tentative programme of work for the upcoming meetings.

I look forward to engaging with Member States on this important subject at the AHWG's first meeting to be held on Thursday, 28 February 2019, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 1.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. ESPINOSA".

Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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



New York, 5 February 2019

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 73rd Session of the General Assembly. It has been a great privilege for us to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly on 30 October 2018 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 shall spare no effort to achieve a substantial negotiated outcome ideally before the July 2019 session of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

We would like to invite you to the **General Debate of the AHWG, which will be held on Thursday, 28 February 2019, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 1.** Please be informed that the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés will be present at the meeting and will deliver her opening statement. 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 General Debate will provide an opportunity to discuss how to move forward, building on the progress achieved during previous sessions, as well as on previous UNGA resolutions. As Your Excellency is aware, among specific mandates for the 73rd session are:

- Possible alternative dates for the beginning of the regular session of the UNGA (UNSG report) – OP 47 R 72/313;
- Potential concept and scope of guidelines on how to conduct election campaigns by Member States – OP 51;
- Prohibitive costs of the use of the Delegates' Dining Room (UNSG to provide innovative proposals) – OP 63;
- Review of the oath of office of the UNSG – OP 74;
- Possibility of providing the process of selection and appointment of the UNSG with notional timelines, based on 69/321 – OP 72;

- Establishing the guidelines for the informal interactive dialogue with candidates for the position of PGA, including the question of participants, duration and format – OP89.

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):

1. **Tuesday, 19 March 2019 (thematic debate: GA role and authority)** - Trusteeship Council Chamber;
2. **Wednesday, 27 March 2019 (thematic debate: working methods)** - Trusteeship Council Chamber;
3. **Tuesday, 9 April 2019 (interactive dialogue between the Permanent Missions & the UN Secretariat)** – AM only – Conference Room 4;
4. **Tuesday, 16 April 2019 (thematic debate: SG selection process)** – Conference Room 1;
5. **Tuesday, 30 April 2019 (thematic debate: Office of the PGA)** – Conference Room 3.

We would like to encourage Your Excellency 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 would also like to kindly invite all Member States to focus our joint concerted efforts throughout this session on the AHWG leading the way for the General Assembly to be able to reach a timely consensus on a streamlined (concise and result-oriented) text of the draft resolution.

On our part, we are committed as Co-chairs to work with all Member States and conduct our business in an inclusive, transparent and efficient manner. We remain available for informal consultations at any time before and during the session.

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



Sima Sami I. Bahous
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Jordan to the UN



Michal Mlynár
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Slovakia to the UN

To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York