



STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. František Ružička

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

**Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization
of the work of the General Assembly**

**4 March 2014
New York**

-Check against delivery-

Distinguished Mr. President
H.E. Ambassador Norachit Sinhaseni
Excellences,
Ladies, gentlemen, colleagues

I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for his candid, thoughtful and inspirational speech.

I felt very privileged and honored last year to accept the nomination to co-chair this important Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization.

Nomination of my colleague with great experience and high diplomatic tact H.E. Norachit Sinhaseni makes me believe that we would be able to pick up the ball where it was left last year.

I do believe that we would be able to continue in the work, efforts and results achieved under the able chairmanship of H.E. Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil.

At this point it is appropriate to express our thanks and appreciation for his effort and dedication. He set the standards high, which is a good challenge for us.

But no result can be reached without our joint effort, will and courage to sail new seas, to reach new stars.

As many other issues, revitalization of the work of the United Nations is a cross cutting agenda. May have and certainly is having an influence on many aspects of our practical work. Resolution 67/297 adopted on August 29, 2013, together with Report and other documents are clearly giving Member States the mandate to discuss issues that, if agreed, may improve our everyday work. They may, if agreed, improve conditions for better, more complex preparation of member States for taking important seats in the Security Council, ECOSOC or for chairing Main Committees.

As it was mentioned in the opening remarks of the President of the General Assembly H.E. John Ashe the Resolution 67/297 has mandated us to discuss issues in four clusters:

- 1) Role and authority of the General Assembly, Cooperation of the UNGA with other stakeholders;
- 2) Working methods of the UNGA. This may be a core agenda dealing with many important issues;
- 3) Discussion on the selection and appointment of the Secretary General;
- 4) Strengthening the institutional memory of the office of the President of the General Assembly

The Co-Chairs in their letter, circulated on February 3rd, opened the possibility to have preliminary consultations with Member States and regional groups. We are extremely thankful for your suggestions, thoughts, advice we have received. We would like to

assure you that no idea, no suggestion will be left out unnoticed, and will be thoroughly considered and evaluated.

Today we start our work. Better say – we reflect and continue in the work of many of our colleagues. To achieve expected and well needed results we need an open, fair and intensive exchange of views. The discussion should be as complex and inclusive as possible. If we are to take and adopt any measures to improve our work and modernize the instruments, we should address general issues as well as specific concerns of all.

UN is a unique body. It embraces all Nations in the World. For many of us this is the best place to express concerns, views, interact with other Nations. This is her blessing and curse in the same time.

If we would like to maintain relevance and authority of the United Nations - and we should definitely to do so – we have to reflect the changes that are occurring every day all around the World.

To move forward we would appreciate very much your general comments as well as comments on each cluster at this session. To address issues like cooperation of the UN with other stakeholders, general approach to the revitalization as well as practicalities starting from exploring the possibility of elections to different UN bodies as mentioned in paragraphs 17 and 22 of the Resolution 67/297, ending with possibilities to improve everyday communication and general access to documents and archives as defined in paragraphs 20 and 21.

The Resolution recognizes the need to address the issues concerning the selection and appointing of the Secretary General in paragraph 24.

It mandates the President of the General Assembly to report to the General Assembly and emphasizes the need to ensure proper work of the PGA office as well as preserve its institutional memory. Let us have a look, how we can do it. What are the possibilities and limitations?

We would like to prepare a summary of today's discussion and adjust, wherever necessary, the program of work and discussion during debates dedicated to four clusters mentioned that are to take place from March till June.

Once again on my personal behalf I thank you for your trust, for your cooperation, openness and tolerance.

My wish, our wish, is to contribute to more vital, modern Organization, to build the trust, predictability and transparency of the methods of our work.

Looking forward to our deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.