

**Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalisation of the General Assembly
Sixty-ninth Session**

Speaking Points
14 April 2015

Ambassador Tuvako N. Manongi
Chair of the Sixth Committee

- The Sixth Committee held its annual exchange of views on its working methods during the consideration of the agenda item entitled “revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly”. While no formal proposals were made on this occasion, several issues were raised, many of which have also been raised in the past. I will mention just two, and then highlight a “lessons-learned” paper adopted by the Bureau of the Sixth Committee for the sixty eighth session, implementation of which began during the sixty-ninth session.
- First, concerns were again raised by delegations about overlaps. In particular, they reiterated that consideration of the reports of the International Criminal Court and of the UN international criminal tribunals in plenary should not coincide with the consideration in the Sixth Committee of the report of the International Law Commission during the International Law Week. I would like to underline that this presents difficulties for smaller delegations because the items require the attention of the same legal expert. I would be grateful if this concern could be brought to the attention of the relevant department responsible for planning the work of the General Assembly.
- Second, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the introduction of “Uniteshare”, which proved to be an effective means for delegations to communicate information and drafts among themselves, and for the Secretariat to communicate with delegations. Also, the Sixth Committee again successfully used the “Papersmart” arrangement for the sixty-ninth session, which has proved an effective means for making official documentation and statements made by delegations available in electronic format and in “real-time”.
- In addition this year, the Bureau of the Sixth Committee for the 69th session of the General Assembly worked in collaboration with the outgoing Bureau of the Sixth Committee from the previous (68th) session to begin implementation of a “lessons-learned” paper, adopted by the previous Bureau in June 2014.
- Among the lessons-learned in the paper are: the possibility of a joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming Bureau’s each year as the start of a “handover” period; opportunities for informal inter-sessional working by delegations, if needed; and increased opportunities for informal briefings to delegates by the Secretariat and by members of the International Law Commission.