

JOINT STATEMENT

77TH SESSION

SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM No. 124

Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

New York, November 10th, 2022

Mr. Chair,

In relation to the current item of agenda I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the delegations of Colombia, Italy, Lebanon, México, Portugal, Sierra Leone and my own country, El Salvador.

At the outset, allow me to express our appreciation for the valuable work undertaken under your Chairpersonship, which, together with the efforts of the members of the Bureau, have made it possible to achieve a productive session of this Sixth Committee, and our appreciation for the valuable support and service provided by the Codification Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs in the organization of our work.

Overtime, our delegations have consistently been expressing their concerns regarding the working methods of the Sixth Committee, which in our view have been seriously impacting the ability of the Committee to have substantive discussions on the topics that are brought to its attention and have great importance for a significant number of delegations, as well as on our ability to have a level of debate that honors and is reflective of the mandate this body has under the UN Charter.

We are particularly concerned with the inertia of the Committee

Mr. Chair,

We believe the state of our work and approach to the work of the ILC is concerning and challenging. We are convinced that ~~we~~ do not live up to the challenges, we risk undermining the relationship between the GA and the ILC. We risk impairing the ~~role~~ of the General Assembly in terms of progressive development and codification of International law, and we risk coming to a place where States might feel tempted to consider bypassing the UN altogether when developing international law.

Accordingly, ~~though~~ it has been a productive session, our delegations have recognized –now more than ever– the need for this Committee to reflect on its methods of work, which are essential to ensure a productive but, more importantly, ~~the~~ meaningful session, where the Sixth Committee can constructively achieve an ~~actioned~~ outcome.

In this regard, we would like to emphasize the following:

1. First, we must recall that there already is a mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 75/325, according to which each Main Committee is requested to further discuss its working methods. In this regard, we should keep in mind the importance of understanding lessons learned and consolidating institutional memory on any best practices that might improve the functions of this Committee. And, perhaps more importantly, to reflect and to implement necessary changes to ensure continued revitalization and ~~even~~ improving methods for all of us to perform the mandate of the Committee.
2. Second, our delegations believe that it is time to examine more closely how the Sixth Committee engages with such a wide variety of topics, and whether our ultimate goals could and would be more effectively achieved with enhanced procedural engagement. In this regard, our delegations can envision improvements in how the Committee engages, and how greater clarity and procedural approaches would ensure all delegations a more secure ~~and~~ consistent footing.

This applies in particular to the International Law Commission products, with regard to which, we see the need to achieve a greater degree of coherence and coordination across their consideration by this Committee

This is not advocati

discussions on working methods, ~~age~~ management and programme procedures, maintaining close interaction with the ILC.

Digital technologies could be leveraged to create forums for dialogue before the start

