

JOINT STATEMENT
78TH SESSION
SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our delegations have consistently been expressing their concerns regarding the working methods of the Sixth Committee, which in our view, **have been impacting the ability of the Committee to have more substantive discussions** on the topics that are brought to its attention and which 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.

It is our firm conviction that States continue to **have a central role in the codification and progressive development of international law** and that this body should be the main multilateral forum where such an exercise should take place. Additionally, past and current world events only make us further convinced that the increased complexity of international relations and global phenomena require **more international law**, not less; it requires **more and better discussions** seeking to address old and emerging challenges, not a sustained decline in our ability to make progress on those debates.

Accordingly, our delegations have recognized the need for this Committee to **reflect on its methods of work on a regular basis**. Indeed, despite several achievements over the years, we feel there are **tangible steps we can take** with a

Point by the Bureau who can help

was **never intended to undermine the substantive engagement of the Committee** across the topics under discussion. The efficiency, effectiveness and integrity of the Committee and its vital role under the UN Charter may be undermined if delegations misuse consensus as a veto that is brought forth with the purpose of **stalling discussions and blocking progress**, without good faith engagement, leading to excessive utilization of technical rollovers that have paralyzed the Committee across a range of topics on our agenda. To this end, resolutions prepared and adopted by the 6C should **reflect the level of substantive engagement of delegations**, even when positions are divergent, rather than rolling-over existing texts.

this technical rollover approach is one that does not **do justice** to the evolution of discussions over time and that may sometimes constitute an incentive to delegations to avoid substantive engagement altogether.

Fourth, our delegations remain convinced there is a need for **rationalization and enhanced rotation among the coordinators** of our resolutions at regular intervals. Principles of **representation, inclusivity and transparency** are of relevance in this regard.

Fifth and lastly, we believe some concrete measures might be considered to **improve accessibility and efficiency** across the board in our Committee. This includes having a more thorough and systematic discussion over ways to ensure equal standing from all delegations, including **support to small and developing delegations** to enhance their engagement with the Commission. Additionally, recalling the mandate set out in paragraph 36 of resolution 77/335, we note the important role of information and communication technologies in carrying out the work of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, and in this regard we believe this Committee could also discuss **how digital technologies could be leveraged**

ILC while ensuring full and equal participation of all delegations, and particularly dialogue with the Special Rapporteurs, not only ahead of the debate on the ILC report, but also during the phase of submission of written comments by Governments, when further guidance might be helpful for delegations; this exercise can also include discussing the **possibility of ensuring that informal**

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