Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations

to the United Nations

the Ad Hoc Working Group AHWG

on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

New York, March 3, 2020
Dear Co-Chairs,

In this particular year, any process that seeks to enhance the efficiency, authority and working methods of the General Assembly bears a particular significance. The revitalization of the GA ultimately contributes to reinforcing our commitment to multilateralism, and to leading towards the future we want and the UN we need.

So let me congratulate both of you on your appointment, Ambassador Pobee from Ghana and Ambassador Mlynar from Slovakia, to steer this Ad Hoc Working Group and assure you of Lebanon’s support. I seize this opportunity to pay tribute to your predecessors and would also like to extend my gratitude to the President of the General Assembly for his important remarks yesterday.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and will add a few observations.

Dear Co-Chairs,

It is undeniable that solid progress has been achieved during the past sessions and we look forward to a further progress being achieved this year. The chief progress of these past years has definitely been the enhanced transparency in the Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General and other Executive Heads. In these past sessions, we have also seen more efforts and results to further improve geographical and gender balance. As noted by General Assembly resolution 73/341, gender parity has already been reached in the Senior Management Group.

My delegation also welcomes in resolution 73/341 the provisions aiming at facilitating accessible seating for representatives with disabilities. There seems to be general convergence on the need to limit the number of side-events during the High-level week. As it has been said, it enables to preserve the sanctity of the general debate and strengthen its preeminence, while also addressing the difficulties encountered by small delegations who can only attend a very limited number of events. The language could thus be improved in the new text of the resolution.

We reiterate the need to strengthen the Office of the President of the General Assembly, which has to receive adequate and reliable support and cannot continue to solely rely on voluntary contributions. We call for all the necessary measures and financing to institutionalize the Office of the PGA, to become more independent, robust and strong institution.

It remains important to ensure that the different debates and thematic debates continue to be webcast. This also goes towards reinforcing inclusion and transparency, two words that were often mentioned yesterday.

On the process, we wish to highlight the following element:

- The negotiations should start as early as possible after the last thematic debate to be held on the 21st of April. There are indeed many processes that will be taking place these upcoming weeks and months. In this connection, we believe, if possible, that we could merge the last two thematic debates and have them both take place on the 6th of April. This could enable us to start the negotiations earlier, and could help in ensuring greater participation.