



AUSTRALIA



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PLENARY DEBATE ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY REVITALIZATION NATIONAL STATEMENT – AUSTRALIA

08 November, 2021

Statement by H.E. The Hon Mitch Fifield

Thank you, Madame President.

Australia aligns itself with the statement delivered by my colleague from New Zealand on behalf of CANZ.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words in my national capacity.

Let me begin by joining others in expressing my sincere thanks to Ambassador Mlynár of Slovakia for his leadership of the Ad Hoc Working Group during the 75th session.

I would also like to congratulate my friend and colleague, Ambassador López of El Salvador, on her reappointment as co-chair for the 76th session.

Together, Ambassadors Mlynár and López, steered one of the most productive sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group in recent years. I commend both of

them for their hard work and leadership, and for the progress that they together with Member States have made.

Madame President,

It is an honour to be appointed as co-chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the 76th session. My sincere thanks to the President, and to the membership, for entrusting me with this important task.

And can I say on a personal note, how much I'm looking forward to working together with Ambassador López. And learning from her, and also furthering the good work that she has already done.

Madame President,

As other delegations have noted, our mandate this session is clear.

The decision to biennialise the revitalization resolution means this session of the Ad Hoc Working Group will look different to previous years.

In the absence of a negotiation, we will bring a special focus to two thematic issues under the banner of revitalization: 'the role and authority of the General Assembly' and 'working methods'.

These are two very important pillars and we must use the space provided by this new format to take stock of the many actions agreed under these themes and direct our focus to implementation.

Madame President,

We have a real opportunity this session to implement a range of measures that will deliver a more representative, inclusive, efficient and effective Assembly.

By reforming this Assembly, we can ensure it is fit-for-the-future, better equipped to support the achievement of the SDGs; the commitments of the UN75 Declaration; and many of the recommendations of the Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* report.

It is my hope – and that of Ambassador López – that the constructive and collaborative spirit shown by all delegations during the 75th session will prevail this year as well.

We look forward to the important briefings that will take place this session, including on lessons learnt from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the GA's work.

As a member of CANZ, Australia has a long track record of engaging transparently and constructively in GA revitalization.

As co-chair, I commit to maintaining this approach, building on the consultative and inclusive approach of the previous session.

Once again, thank you to the President for appointing me to co-chair this process. I look forward to working with Ambassador López and all delegations to progress the revitalization of this august Assembly.

Thank you.

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