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## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 29th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 14 November 2014, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Manongi. . . . . (United Republic of Tanzania)  
*later:* Mr. Pašić (Vice-Chair). . . . . (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 168: Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country** (A/69/26; A/C.6/69/L.19)

1. **Mr. Belev** (Bulgaria), speaking as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, introduced the report of the Committee (A/69/26). During the reporting period, the Committee had held several meetings at which concerns had been raised about the issuance or renewal of entry visas to Member State delegates, treatment of Member State mission staff in cases of private claims following traffic accidents, access to banking services for permanent missions and their staff, and parking for permanent mission vehicles. Representatives of the host country had provided answers and comments in response to questions asked and statements made by delegates, and had reported on the efforts made to address the concerns raised. In its report, the Committee had formulated conclusions and recommendations within the scope of its competence.

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.19: Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country*

2. **Mr. Menelaou** (Cyprus), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the text summarized the contents of the Committee's report (A/69/26) and endorsed the recommendations and conclusions contained therein.

3. **Mr. Norman** (Canada) said that, for technical reasons, his country should be removed from the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

4. **Mr. Marhic** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, expressed appreciation for the Committee's work in addressing issues faced by the diplomatic community as well as the efforts of the host country to promote mutual understanding between that community and the people of New York. The Committee dealt with issues that, although often practical in nature, went to the heart of the legal regime governing the status of the United Nations and the rights and obligations of diplomatic agents. Observance of the privileges and immunities of

diplomatic personnel was of great importance. In that regard, the integrity of the Headquarters Agreement, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations must be safeguarded.

5. He thanked the host country for its continued efforts to issue entry visas in a timely fashion to representatives of Member States and observers. He also welcomed its efforts to help permanent missions find suitable banking services, which were indispensable for their effective functioning. He endorsed the conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, an important forum that allowed Member States to communicate matters of concern and engage in constructive dialogue with the host country.

6. **Ms. Dieguez La O** (Cuba) said that her delegation was concerned at the irregularity with which the host country fulfilled its obligation to issue entry visas to diplomatic representatives. The incidents which had occurred in 2014 must be addressed without delay. Despite some welcome efforts by the host country, nothing justified that situation, especially when such cases focused only on specific countries. The host country must step up its efforts to resolve those difficulties and to comply with the Headquarters Agreement and relevant conventions on the subject.

7. The policy of placing restrictions on the movements of Cuban diplomats and Cuban international civil servants accredited to the United Nations or working in the Organization was unjust, selective, discriminatory and politically motivated, and in blatant violation of the host country's obligations under the Headquarters Agreement, customary norms of diplomatic law and the relevant treaties. The host country continued to refuse to take steps to eliminate that unfounded measure, which prevented Cuban staff from travelling outside a 25-mile radius, measured from Columbus Circle. That arbitrary and unjustified limitation was contrary to the general rule on the free movement of diplomats and should be eliminated without further delay.

8. With regard to the acceleration of immigration and customs procedures, the observance of diplomatic courtesy and guarantees for the treatment of the diplomatic personnel of Member States at airports were of vital importance. While the host country had made some efforts in that regard, it should continue to

improve the training of police, security, customs and border control officials to ensure that diplomatic privileges and immunities were respected. Her delegation welcomed the efforts made by the host country during the high-level segment of the General Assembly. The Diplomatic Parking Programme should also be implemented in an appropriate, equitable, non-discriminatory and efficient manner, in compliance with international law.

9. In 2014, the Committee had been faced with a new difficulty arising from the arbitrary closing of the bank accounts of diplomatic missions and personnel. Problems persisted with the bank accounts of several missions. The host country must take all necessary measures to ensure that its internal regulations did not cause such difficulties, which hindered the normal functioning of missions accredited to the United Nations.

10. Her delegation welcomed the steps taken in 2014 during the discussions on the draft resolution under consideration to improve the work of the Committee with a view to addressing the issues raised. In 2015, sufficient time must be set aside in the Sixth Committee's agenda to allow Member States to improve and update the text of the draft resolution.

11. **Mr. Gharibi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country was duty-bound to address concerns and complaints referred to it by Member States about issues which could seriously affect the smooth functioning of accredited permanent missions. The Committee should make the most of its unique powers to help resolve such issues constructively and in a spirit of cooperation.

12. Regardless of its form, the Committee's report should contain core elements and requests made by participants in meetings and reflect the efforts of the Chair and the host country authorities to settle outstanding issues. The content of the report was not a product of the Secretariat or of the Chair of the Committee, but the true reflection of facts and proceedings. The report should be prepared sufficiently in advance of the consideration of the item in the Sixth Committee, to allow sufficient time for Member States to take note of it. To better illustrate its activities, the Committee should provide a matrix together with its annual report which briefly indicated what issues had been referred to it, how they had been addressed and

what results had been achieved by the end of the reporting cycle. That would be helpful to Member States and would improve the Committee's visibility.

13. The Sixth Committee's consideration of the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country must be consistent with its practice for other items. Although efforts to that end had been made for the seventieth session of the General Assembly, by the seventy-first session, there should be no distinction between the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and other items on the agenda of the Sixth Committee. Likewise, in line with the Sixth Committee's practice for other items, the announcement of the drafting of a resolution and its introduction by the coordinator of the draft should take place immediately following consideration of the item by the Sixth Committee in plenary. The no-objection procedure on any draft resolution submitted to the Sixth committee should not begin immediately following the introduction of the draft resolution, but within a reasonable time, to allow delegations to consult with their capitals.

14. General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement to the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The Secretary-General was a party to that Agreement and should ensure that its provisions were implemented effectively. That had not been the case in recent years, and the Secretariat should consider reviving that practice. Draft resolution [A/C.6/69/L.19](#) demonstrated the Sixth Committee's interest in enhancing the working methods and effectiveness of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, which would make it unnecessary for the General Assembly to become involved in issues that could be resolved in the Committee, as it had done in its resolution 68/306, on banking services.

15. Lastly, the smooth functioning of the Organization and the missions accredited to it, as well as the resolution of any difficulties encountered in that regard were in the interests of all Member States and should not be construed otherwise. As a member of the United Nations family, the Islamic Republic of Iran shared the Organization's concerns and was committed to addressing them in the best possible manner.

16. **Mr. Simonoff** (United States of America) said that his country was proud to serve as host to the

United Nations and took that role and its obligations under the Host Country Agreement very seriously. The Committee on Relations with the Host Country was a valuable forum in which to discuss issues relating to the presence of the dynamic diplomatic community in New York and to address its concerns. The host country greatly valued the Committee's cooperation and constructive spirit and appreciated the participation of numerous observer delegations in its meetings. The Committee's discussions in 2014 had focused on mitigating delays in visa issuance, ensuring the safety and security of United Nations missions, and facilitating their access to banking services.

17. The host country had worked hard to assist missions and mission staff to secure banking and financial services, including by participating in a briefing for all delegations and by working bilaterally with missions to help them in that regard. The host country remained available to assist all missions in that respect and encouraged delegations to bring any issues to the host country bilaterally if they preferred. The Host Country Section in the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations always strove to assist delegations to find a solution to any issues they faced.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.19 was adopted.*

19. *Mr. Pašić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

**Agenda item 169: Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly (continued) (A/C.6/69/L.4)**

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.4: Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly*

20. **Ms. Özkan** (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, said that, during the informal consultations delegations had not been able to reach a consensus. Accordingly, the sponsors requested that the agenda item should be deferred to the seventieth session of the General Assembly.

21. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly should defer consideration of the agenda item to its seventieth session.

22. *It was so decided.*

23. **Ms. Krasa** (Cyprus) said that her delegation had no objection to deferring consideration of the item. However, it continued to have serious reservations as to whether the criteria under General Assembly decision 49/426 had been fulfilled. While appreciating efforts of interaction made by sponsor delegations, her delegation was not convinced that meaningful progress could be achieved before the next consideration of the item as to permit a different outcome. Nonetheless, her delegation would return to the matter at the seventieth session of the General Assembly and would give it the proper consideration without prejudicing any outcome. It encouraged the sponsors of the draft resolution, however, to revisit the idea of withdrawing the item from the work programme of the Sixth Committee if progress once more proved unfeasible in what would be the fifth consecutive consideration of the item.

24. **Mr. Sargsyan** (Armenia) said that his delegation also found that no real progress had been made to address its serious concerns as to whether the criteria under General Assembly decision 49/426 had been fulfilled. If no progress was made in consultations prior to the seventieth session of the General Assembly, the sponsors should consider withdrawing the agenda item.

**Agenda item 170: Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly (continued)**

25. **The Chair** announced that France, the coordinating delegation for the agenda item, had decided not to pursue the request for observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly at the current session, while reserving the right to present it at a future session.

**Agenda item 78: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session (continued) (A/C.6/69/L.14 and A/C.6/69/L.15)**

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.14: Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session*

26. **Mr. Horna** (Peru), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Bureau, said that the text was very much similar to those of previous years, with a few technical updates. In the draft resolution, the General Assembly would recall that the seat of the International Law Commission was at the United

Nations Office at Geneva, and call upon the Commission to deliberate thoroughly the feasibility of holding part of its sixty-eighth session in New York. It would also decide, without prejudice to the output of those deliberations, to revert to the consideration of the recommendation contained in paragraph 388 of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session during the seventieth session of the General Assembly, namely the possibility of holding part of its future sessions in New York.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.14 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.15: Expulsion of aliens*

28. **Mr. Horna** (Peru), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Bureau, said that the text was very much similar to those of previous years, with a few technical updates. A preambular paragraph had been introduced in which the General Assembly would take note of the comments of Governments and the discussion in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the subject, in order to reflect the position of States that had participated in the debate in the Sixth Committee but had not necessarily been able to submit comments or observations in writing. In the operative part, the General Assembly would take note of the draft articles on the expulsion of aliens without annexing them to a resolution.

29. *Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.15 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 79: Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts** (*continued*)  
(A/C.6/69/L.12)

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.12: Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts*

30. **Ms. Nilsson** (Sweden), introducing the draft resolution, announced that the sponsors had been joined by Australia, Austria, Chad, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago.

31. The text of the draft resolution was similar to those of previous years, with a few changes. In the draft resolution, the General Assembly would take note of the initiative by the International Committee of the Red Cross to facilitate a process regarding the legal protection of all persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict; and of the work undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross in its Health Care in Danger project regarding the protection of the provision of and access to health care. It would also call upon States to respect and protect the wounded and sick, as well as health-care personnel and facilities, and medical vehicles in armed conflict in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law. The Assembly would also note the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013, and call upon Member States to actively participate in the Thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to be held in Geneva in 2015.

32. *Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.12 was adopted.*

*Statements in explanation of position*

33. **Mr. Clarke** (United Kingdom) said that it was a matter of great regret for his delegation that the Sixth Committee had been unable to agree to include in the text a reference — even a factual one — to the 2013 Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The Declaration recognized that rape and sexual violence inflicted unimaginable suffering and was designed to destroy individuals, families and communities. It stressed that sexual violence could significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and could impede the restoration of peace and security. It called on States to shatter the culture of impunity for those who committed such crimes by bringing those responsible to justice. It also recalled that rape and other forms of serious sexual violence in armed conflict were war crimes and constituted grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and their first Protocol, which also prohibited other serious sexual assaults, such as sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy and enforced sterilization.

34. It defied understanding that a few delegations felt unable to join the 155 Member States which had so far endorsed the 2013 Declaration and thus help prevent rape and sexual violence in armed conflict and hold perpetrators to account. The message they sent to the survivors of rape and sexual violence about the Sixth

Committee's inability to recognize the gravity of those crimes was even more disappointing.

35. **Mr. Elhamamy** (Egypt) said that any reference in the draft resolution to Additional Protocol III, including indirect references such as "all Additional Protocols", did not in any way indicate any form of support for it by Egypt. The adoption of Protocol III in 2005 had been regrettable since it had failed to take into account the reservations expressed during the negotiations and thus constituted an undesirable precedent in matters relating to international humanitarian law that should never be repeated. Unanimity and universality were important principles which must be upheld in the interests of avoiding a failure to reach consensus on new instruments of international humanitarian law.

36. **Mr. Aldahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country had joined the consensus on the draft resolution to demonstrate the importance that it attached to international humanitarian law. However, it had reservations about any direct or indirect references in the draft resolution to Additional Protocol III, which had not enjoyed unanimity, since it had been adopted by a vote. At the time, many States had expressed reservations that its adoption would establish a precedent. The concerns of his delegation during the draft preparation phase of Protocol III remained.

**Agenda item 80: Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives**  
(continued) (A/C.6/69/L.18)

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.18: Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives*

37. **Ms. Mäkelä** (Finland), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the sponsors had been joined by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

38. Violations of the security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives continued to take place, causing concern in the international community. The draft resolution, which reflected the determination of the Member States to oppose and redress such incidents, was based on General Assembly resolution A/67/94, adopted in 2012, with a few technical updates.

39. The draft resolution contained three new preambular paragraphs. In the sixth preambular paragraph, the General Assembly would note that diplomatic and consular missions might maintain archives and documents in various forms; that official correspondence might take a variety of forms; and that diplomatic and consular missions might use a variety of means of communication. The seventh preambular paragraph followed the relevant provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations concerning the inviolability of archives and official correspondence and free communication of diplomatic and consular missions that States must permit and protect. In paragraph 3, the Assembly would urge Member States to strictly observe, implement and enforce all the applicable principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations.

40. *Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.18 was adopted.*

41. **Mr. Luna** (Brazil), speaking in explanation of position, said that in recent weeks, many delegations had supported the idea that the draft resolution should address not just the inviolability of diplomatic and consular agents and premises but also the inviolability of archives, documents, correspondence and communications, which were equally relevant and topical. His delegation was pleased that a consensus had been reached on a text which addressed such concerns, since it acknowledged that, regardless of their forms, archives, documents, correspondence and communications benefited from the protection established by both Vienna Conventions.

42. His delegation would have preferred, however, a more specific text in which the concerns presented by several Committee members were reflected in more detail in the operative paragraphs. The overall balance of the resolution would have also benefited from explicitly addressing the protection of archives, documents, correspondence and communications of international organizations. Nonetheless, the text was a

significant step forward, and for that reason, Brazil had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

**Agenda item 81: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization**  
(continued) (A/C.6/69/L.13)

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.13: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization*

43. **Mr. Elhamamy** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Bureau, said that the text was based on General Assembly resolution 68/115, with a few technical updates. In paragraph 2, the General Assembly would decide that the Special Committee would hold its next session from 17 to 25 February 2015, i.e. for a total of seven days. In paragraph 5, which was new, it would invite the Special Committee, at its session in 2015, to consider the question of an appropriate commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. The report of the Special Committee would be mandated in paragraph 7, and in paragraph 8 the Assembly would recognize the important role of the International Court of Justice.

44. Paragraphs 9 to 15 related to the practice of United Nations organs and the Security Council. Amendments had been introduced in paragraphs 10 and 13 to bring the text into line with the recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 2014 session. In paragraph 18, the Assembly would decide to include the item in the agenda of its seventieth session.

45. *Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.13 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 82: The rule of law at the national and international levels** (continued) (A/C.6/69/L.20)

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.20: The rule of law at the national and international levels*

46. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) said that the draft resolution contained four sets of updates. The first related to rule of law assistance. There was new language in the text on the need to anchor rule of law activities in a national context and to reflect national experiences, while at the same time recognizing the relevance of international standards, the need to intensify rule of law assistance and the need to share national experiences regarding the rule of law. Those

issues were set out in a new fourth preambular paragraph, an updated paragraph 9 and a new paragraph 15.

47. A second set of updates related to the follow-up to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law, held in 2012. In paragraph 1, the Assembly would take note of the report of the Secretary-General that had been mandated by that meeting, and would request the Sixth Committee to continue its consideration of ways and means of further developing the linkages of the rule of law and the three pillars of the United Nations. In a new paragraph 2, which also stemmed from the high-level meeting, the Assembly would encourage States that had not yet done so to make pledges and to share their experiences in that regard.

48. A third set of updates concerned the thematic work undertaken by the Sixth Committee. A new paragraph 14 derived from the discussion held on the sub-topic of access to justice and the sharing of national experiences in that regard, and contained a call to intensify assistance extended to Governments upon their request. Paragraph 20 referred to the item for the 2015 debate entitled “The role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law”.

49. In the fourth set of updates, the General Assembly would stress in paragraph 19 the need for the Rule of Law Unit to carry out its tasks in an effective and sustainable manner and the need to provide it with reasonable means required to that effect.

50. *Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.20 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 107: Measures to eliminate international terrorism** (continued) (A/C.6/69/L.17)

*Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.17: Measures to eliminate international terrorism*

51. **Mr. Norman** (Canada), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that it was largely an update of the 2013 resolution, with a few changes. In the twenty-third preambular paragraph, the General Assembly would take note of recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress international terrorism, the intention being to make a general reference to all the efforts made without attempting to list them individually. Paragraph 9

included for the first time a reference to foreign terrorist fighters, with the draft resolution emphasizing the need for States to address that issue, including through the implementation of their international obligations, and the need for capacity-building to assist States in that endeavour.

52. In a new paragraph 10, the Assembly would emphasize the need for States to cooperate resolutely against international terrorism by denying safe haven and by bringing perpetrators to justice on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute. Paragraph 24 incorporated verbatim the recommendation that the Sixth Committee should establish a working group at the seventieth session with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In paragraph 25, the Assembly would encourage all Member States to redouble their efforts during the intersessional period.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.6/69/L.17 was adopted.*

### **Agenda item 133: Programme planning**

54. **The Chair** explained that the agenda item had been allocated to all Committees on an annual basis since the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. However, no reports under that item had been provided to the Sixth Committee at the current session.

### **Agenda item 118: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/C.6/69/L.16)**

*Draft decision A/C.6/69/L.16: Provisional programme of work of the Sixth Committee for the seventieth session*

55. **The Chair** drew attention to the provisional programme of work of the Sixth Committee for the seventieth session, contained in draft decision [A/C.6/69/L.16](#). A number of delegations had expressed the wish that the debate on the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country should take place earlier, before negotiations on the draft resolution. The methods of work of the Committee, as well as technical considerations (processing of documents etc.) had made it very difficult to consider the item earlier in the session of the Sixth Committee. He had therefore held discussions that week with the Bureau and with

the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, to seek a solution. On that basis, the secretariat of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country had undertaken to make every effort to issue the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on 13 November 2015. The debate on the item would then take place on 16 November 2015.

56. The provisional programme of work had been orally revised to that effect. As a result, the reserved date of 17 November 2015 would be replaced by 16 November 2015, for the consideration of the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The remaining items would still be considered by the Sixth Committee on 20 November.

57. **Ms. Guillén-Grillo** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that by strengthening the General Assembly's role, authority and powers, States would help to achieve a proper balance between the principal organs of the United Nations, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions. The revitalization of the General Assembly was of paramount importance for a real reform of the United Nations and would help to address current global issues which could not be addressed by one country or group of countries alone, regardless of size or power.

58. CELAC acknowledged the efforts by the Bureau and the Secretariat to avoid overlapping of topics between the Sixth Committee and other bodies, but expressed concern that the Sixth Committee would start its deliberations at the seventieth session of the General Assembly one week later than usual. Measures needed to be taken to avoid a negative impact on the Committee's work. CELAC also welcomed the improvement in the delivery of reports, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/190, and requested the Secretariat to continue complying with the six-week rule for the submission of documents.

59. Options should be contemplated to promote more interactive and closer discussions between the Sixth Committee and the International Law Commission. In that connection, it was important to ensure better financial support for the special rapporteurs, including the possibility of bringing them to New York so that they could have a direct exchange with the legal experts of Member States. As in previous sessions, CELAC encouraged consideration of the possibility of

holding half of the annual sessions of the Commission in New York.

60. At the current session, delegations had not had enough time for the negotiation of certain draft resolutions, and as a result, many had had to be rushed. It was primarily the responsibility of the facilitators to avoid a recurrence of late negotiations, including for the draft resolution on the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The same problem had arisen in connection with the time allocated for the meetings of the working groups. One option worth exploring was to extend the session of the Sixth Committee.

61. Similarly, it should be anticipated that several requests concerning the granting of observer status could not be introduced and discussed at one meeting. In addition, there was a consensus within the Committee that organizations seeking observer status should provide copies of their constitutive instruments for review. CELAC also stressed the need for timely information on the names of persons who would be serving as facilitators. Appointments should be based on an equitable geographical representation.

62. CELAC acknowledged the receptivity shown by the Bureau and the Secretariat on the question of improving the electronic tools and work platforms available to Member States. It appreciated the implementation of UniShare, the useful transmission of communications and information contained in the programme's Internet web pages, and the smooth functioning of the PaperSmart portal.

63. Lastly, the Bureau and the Secretariat should be commended for preparing the document on lessons learned about working methods with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sixth Committee, an important exercise which should be continued.

64. **Ms. Argüello González** (Nicaragua) said that measures must be taken to re-establish the General Assembly's authority to enable it to discharge its duties as the primary democratic, deliberative and policymaking organ of the United Nations. Revitalization of the work of the Assembly should be based on universality, transparency and accountability. That could be achieved through open and inclusive consultations, a vital component of the reform of the United Nations, and through the process of electing the Secretary-General.

65. Any attempts to minimize the General Assembly's achievements and importance, to reduce its role and functions or to raise doubts about its relevance and credibility were unacceptable. The best way of strengthening the General Assembly's authority was by restoring its functions and powers and promoting its relationship and coordination with other bodies of the United Nations. That would enable it to meet the needs of all 193 Member States without distinction and to comply with the principle of the sovereign equality of all Member States.

66. At the current session, sufficient time had not been allotted for negotiations on a number of draft resolutions, in particular the one on the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. She hoped for better planning and coordination with the facilitators of draft resolutions in future.

67. **Ms. Dieguez La O** (Cuba) said that the revitalization of the General Assembly was a crucial element of a true reform of the United Nations. The General Assembly's authority, functions and powers stemmed not only from the Charter, but from its status as the democratic and representative body of the international community. It was in the General Assembly that the principle of the sovereign equality of States took form; and its functioning and working methods were keys in that regard.

68. The Sixth Committee should continue the good practices which had characterized its working methods in the past. Her delegation welcomed efforts by the Bureau and the Secretariat to avoid any overlapping of the Committee's meetings with those of other bodies at which legal experts were expected to speak. It also appreciated the progress made in programme planning and efforts to ensure transparent, inclusive and efficient working methods.

69. In 2015, however, the Secretariat should allot sufficient time for the various topics on the agenda, bearing in mind their nature and complexity. At the current session, delegations had not had enough time for the negotiation of draft resolutions, making it impossible in many cases to complete the agenda and leading to the postponement of certain topics. It was essential to ensure that negotiations on agenda items did not begin late, sometimes even on the last day for the submission of texts to the Secretariat; that had a negative impact on the Committee's work.

70. Delegations must also have all the requisite reports when negotiating draft resolutions on any topic, which had not always been the case at the current session. There were also topics such as requests for the granting of observer status that could not be considered in a reasonable and extensive manner in one meeting, yet they had been repeatedly scheduled as such at recent sessions. The Secretariat should therefore take that into account and should also be aware that there was a consensus within the Committee as to the importance of providing the constitutive instrument of each organization requesting observer status. It was also important to have the names of the persons appointed as facilitators for each topic sufficiently in advance; appointments should take into account equitable geographical representation.

71. Her delegation noted with concern the recent practice of adopting draft resolutions at different times on days allocated for the general debate or for working group discussions, which made the work of delegations very difficult. All draft resolutions of the Sixth Committee, once negotiated and approved, should be adopted jointly at the end of the Committee's session, as had been done successfully in recent years. That would enable delegations to better coordinate their work, consult with capitals, and prepare explanations of positions on each topic, as necessary. The implications of the decision to shorten the work of the Main Committees in 2015 by one week must be examined and measures must be taken to minimize the adverse impact of that decision, including the possibility of extending the Sixth Committee's session.

72. Lastly, her delegation recognized the usefulness of the electronic tools and work platforms made available to Member States, and the effectiveness of the UniShare system in the work of the Committee in 2014. However, none of those systems could replace hard-copy documentation, which must be available at all stages of the consideration of draft resolutions: negotiation, consultation and adoption.

73. *Draft decision A/C.6/69/L.16, as orally revised, was adopted.*

#### **Agenda item 5: Election of the officers of the Main Committees**

74. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 103, as amended by General Assembly resolution

58/126, all the Main Committees should, at least three months before the opening of the session, elect a Chair and a full Bureau. Based on the interim arrangement concerning the rotation of Chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, contained in General Assembly decision 68/505, it was his understanding that the Chair of the Sixth Committee for the seventieth session of the General Assembly would be selected by the Latin American and Caribbean States. He suggested that the regional groups should hold consultations at an appropriate time to ensure that the Committee was in a position to elect its next Chair, three Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur at least three months before the opening of the seventieth session of the Assembly.

#### **Completion of the Committee's work**

75. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared that the Sixth Committee had completed its work for the sixty-ninth session.

*The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.*