Rationalization of the work of
The First Committee

Non-Paper (Sierra Leone)

Considering that any reform or revitalization of the First Committee should comprehensively address substantive issues concerning (a) disarmament machinery including revival of the Committee on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission and (b) implementation of General Assembly resolutions and decisions emanating from and recommended by the First Committee.

Considering also that the revitalization of the First Committee should be an integral part of the ongoing process of the revitalization of the General Assembly, a process under the chairmanship of the President.

The Committee can still take some basic measures to improve its working methods, measures that would not require changes in the Rules of Procedure, nor measures that would involve substantive political issues. Such measures would also not require a formal resolution to be adopted by the Committee and subsequently by the General Assembly, but approved by an organizational meeting of the Committee.

One such measure concerns the Programme of Work and timetable of each session of the Committee. It involves time management, a matter that is within the purview of the Committee. Specifically, it is to ensure that more time is allocated to in-depth thematic discussions on disarmament and international security issues on the Committee’s agenda. Secondly, the proposal is also intended to allow delegations (sponsors, co-sponsors and potential co-sponsors) more time to hold informal consultations on their respective draft resolutions, and to have the deadline for submission of resolutions after the consultations.

The following typical work programme and timetable could be considered:

- Meeting for the organization of work:
  1 meeting
- General debate on all disarmament items:
  8 meetings (2 days)
- Meetings of sponsors, co-sponsors, potential sponsors, regional and sub-regional groups, to consult on draft resolutions:
  9 meetings
- Deadline for submission of draft resolutions:
- Thematic discussions on items as well as introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions:
  10 meetings
- Action on all draft resolutions: