

# European Union Non-Paper

## Rationalization of the work of the First Committee

The EU believes that the working methods in the First Committee could be rationalized to the benefit of all Members. The EU will support the efforts of the Chairman in making the work more effective and relevant so that the Committee can focus on the issues of greatest concern to the international community in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The EU is convinced of the need to maintain in the First Committee a balanced agenda which reflects important goals and objectives and which is able to react to, and focus upon today's most immediate problems. Here, we include, for example, the non-proliferation and disarmament challenges facing the international treaties today, the question of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

All delegations in the First Committee should be able to express their main concerns in the field of disarmament and security and to table resolutions reflecting those concerns.

The EU suggests the following practical measures that could be pursued in order to revitalize the work of the First Committee.

### 1. Manage the Committee's time more efficiently

- Suggest to the General Assembly to explore ways to have the Chair and the Bureau in place well before the General Assembly. This would give the opportunity to prepare the First Committee thoroughly in close consultations with the regional groups.
- Limit speaking time in general debate and make greater use of the possibility to distribute the long version of national statements.
- Establish the practice of a rolling list of statements.
- Review the arrangement of the time table of the First Committee with a view to making the most effective use of the time allotted.

## **2. New formats for discussion in the Committee**

- Increase interactivity of discussions in general debate as well as the thematic discussions.

## **3. Handling agenda items**

- Review the structure of the clusters. The creation of new clusters reflecting the new international security situation has to be examined.

## **4. Resolutions**

- Reduce the number of resolutions for each session by making use of biennial and triennial submission.
- Avoid the automaticity of including the usual paragraph at the end of resolutions asking for re-inscription of the item in the agenda.
- More frequent use should be made of the instrument of decisions instead of resolutions. Decisions are easier to handle and less time consuming as regards their negotiation.

## **5. Reports**

- Limit the reporting requirements in resolutions in order to reduce the workload for the Secretariat as well.

## **6. Despatching items to other bodies**

- Eliminate from the agenda resolutions which do not have their main focus on the mandate of the First Committee

## **7. The way forward**

- Consultations should be held during the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly with the task to present concrete recommendations for the 59<sup>th</sup> session.