

Chairman's proposal on the structure of an interactive debate on the issue of improving the effectiveness of the First Committee.

(13-15 October)

Background

- G.A. resolution 58/316, adopted without a vote, mandated the Main Committees to utilize the practice of interactive debates and panel discussions, as appropriate, so as to enhance informal, in depth discussions and to bring together experts from various fields without prejudicing the progress of the substantive work of the Main Committees.
- Similarly, resolution 58/316 asks the Main Committees to enable a dynamic and candid exchange with, inter alia, the heads of departments and offices and representatives of the Secretary General.
- In their responses to resolution 58/41, Member States have highlighted the importance of a more interactive debate.

Proposals

- Within this context, the Chairman proposes the following:
- The session on 13 October be devoted to addressing the issue of the follow-up to the resolutions and decisions adopted by the First Committee.
 - This session would begin with a presentation by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, on tasks carried out by the Secretariat in compliance with the resolutions and decisions. He would report on the capacity of the Department under his responsibility, to follow up the mandates given to it. The Under-Secretary-General would be encouraged to present, in a dynamic and candid way, the most relevant issues that he would like Member States to be aware of or to address. A series of questions and answers would follow.
 - The Under-Secretary-General could invite other officials from DDA to provide further information. Other officials from relevant international organizations, such as the IAEA, OPCW or CTBTO, would be invited to participate on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, specifically addressed to them.
 - States would be encouraged to brief the Committee on their activities in response to the specific resolutions that could add value to the discussions.

- The session on 14 October be devoted to continuing the consideration of the proposals to improve the methods of work of the Committee.
 - The Committee would invite Ambassador Sareva, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee at its 58th Session, to give his views on the ongoing process.
 - Taking into account the responses to resolution 58/41, delegations would be encouraged to identify ways and means to advance the process. This session would also allow delegations that did not respond to resolution 58/41 to make their views known.
 - During the deliberations organizational/procedural issues will be dealt with before moving to the substantive issues.
- If necessary, the Committee might continue its discussions on 15 October.