



Remarks to the Fifth Committee

by H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic

President of the United Nations General Assembly

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INTRODUCTION

- Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, it is with great pleasure that I am addressing you today.
- Let me at the outset congratulate Ambassador Miguel Berger of Germany on his Chairmanship of the Fifth Committee. I would like to commend the way he is

its activities, including human resources, management reforms and governance and oversight matters. During the 67th session, you have a demanding task of reaching agreement on many very important and complex topics, such as scales of assessment, human resources management, capital Master Plan (CMP), peacekeeping operations budgets, funding and backstopping of special political missions (SPMs), just to name a few.

- Due to its heavy workload and the complexity of the items on its agenda, the Fifth Committee tends to be the last one to complete its work. My intention, in addressing you today at a delicate point in your consultations, is to encourage you to stay the course, and to reach consensus on all agenda items. In that regard, I very much hope that this time around, in spite of all complexities involved, you will conclude your deliberations according to the programme of work.
- I want to make it clear that I do not consider this to be a very flexible deadline. You still have enough time to adjust the intensity of your consultations, despite delays associated with Hurricane Sandy, so you can finish as scheduled.

MAIN ISSUES

Management reform and mobility

- Ladies and gentlemen, our overall goal must remain increasing efficiency without sacrificing quality.
- Various management transformation initiatives currently under way should be seen in this light.
- I welcome the fact that there has been significant progress in the area of human resources management reform in recent years. You have taken important

decisions for the contractual framework, better conditions of service in the field,

- It is for this reason that I urge you once again to work in the spirit of compromise when you begin deliberations on the scales for the peacekeeping operations, as well as on modalities for reimbursements to Troop Contributing Countries.

Revitalization of the GA and strengthening the Office of the PGA

- Dear friends, at the end, let me mention one important issue that is closely linked to the overall reform of the United Nations: the revitalization of the General Assembly. In order for the plenary to meet its full potential as the “chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations”, respond effectively to emerging global challenges, and fully implement its various mandates, it is vital, in my view, that the Office of the PGA is adequately budgeted.
- I respectfully urge you to consider raising the current allocation, starting with the 68th Session, in order to reduce the undue burden on the national budget of the Member State whose representative presides over the plenary in future sessions.

country chooses to put itself forward for consideration as PGA.

CONCLUSION

- Ladies and gentlemen, not much time is left until the end of the main session. Your heavy workload demands that you work expeditiously in order to conclude all items on your agenda within th

- I fully expect you to end on time!
- I assure you in my strong commitment to the work of this Committee, and wish you every success in your continued deliberations.
- I thank you.