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Statement of Ms. Chamithri Rambukwella, Chair, Committee on Conferences

**at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly
on 6 November 2013 at 10:00am in Conference Room 4 (NLB)**

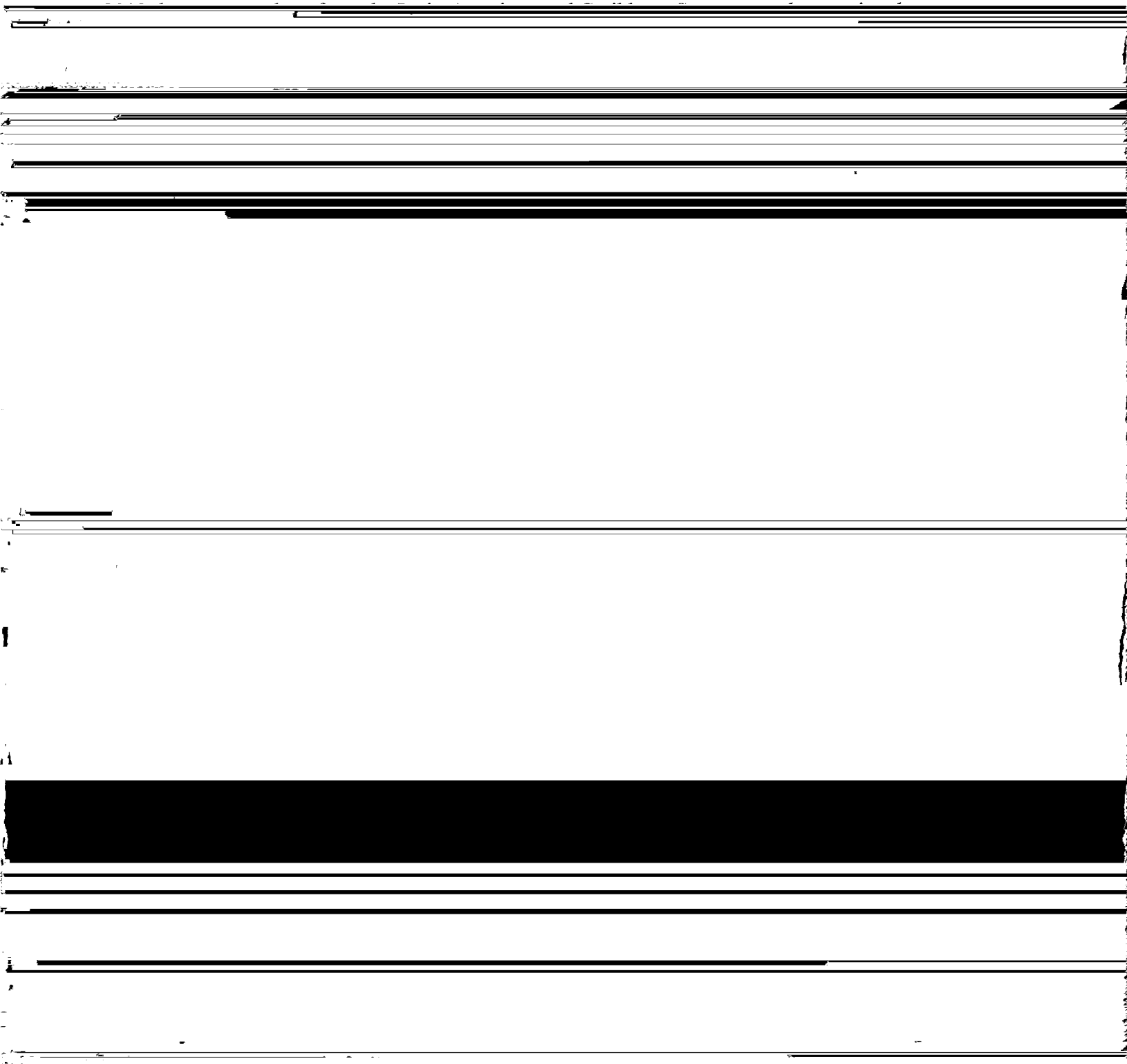
Agenda item: Pattern of conferences

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues,

It is my privilege to address the Fifth Committee to introduce the report of the Committee on
~~Conferences which covers its work in 2012 and was adopted under a silence procedure following its~~

additional information and clarification as necessary in order to provide direction, guidance and support to the Secretariat in carrying out the mandates entrusted to it by the General Assembly. Allow me to highlight some of these issues.

In **Chapter I**, on organizational matters, you will note from the Committee's membership in



consistently underutilized conference resources for the past 10 years were identified and the Secretariat of the Committee on Conferences made specific suggestions to the Secretariat of each body on how to improve its utilization. This is reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences.

In this context, the Committee considered the Secretary-General's specific suggestions on measures to improve the utilization factor of those intergovernmental bodies whose average utilization factor has for the past 10 years been below the benchmark of 80 per cent. While delegations agreed to urge those intergovernmental bodies to take their utilization factor into account when planning their future sessions in order to reach the benchmark, some delegations insisted that more practical measures to

conferences the information regarding the financial savings achieved through the implementation of the integrated global management projects as requested through previous resolutions of the Committee, including in its resolution 67/227, section III, paragraph 15.

The Committee on Conferences did not agree on a proposal to request the Secretary-General to propose ways to enhance the system of assessment of the quality of conference services provided.

Consequently, the Committee decided to refer the issue to the Fifth Committee for its consideration.

Mr. Chair,

Chapter V deals with documentation and publication-related matters. Several delegations remained concerned about the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee, and suggested adjusting the wording of the draft resolution in order to improve timely submission.

external translation, with due consideration of the principle of equal grade for equal work.

The Committee did not reach agreement on a proposal by one delegation on the need for the

Secretary General to report to the General Assembly on the criteria used to determine which documents

would be translated by staff members and which by external contractors. Consequently, the Committee decided to refer the issue to the Fifth Committee for its consideration.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the Bureau and members of the Committee