

5th Committee –
Char's closing lines

1. Experts of the Member States – the result of our work is your result. It is your heritage. It is your achievement. I would like to congratulate you all.
2. Coordinators – my chapeau bas! For your ability, dedication, effort. Individual contribution of all of you on the bumpy roads to final compromise. The road was not always easy, but which road is seamless?
3. Bureau – probably the most dynamic rotation in the history. Personally I would like to distinguish: Paula Coto-Ramírez, Aline Mukashyaka, Matthias Dettling, Madhuka Sanjaya Wickramarachchige, Chamithri Jayanika Rambukwella, Slavo Kantor, Lucia Kantor, but also those who stepped in Omar Castañeda Solares, Yotam Goren, Marcio Burity, Ken Siah and some other colleagues.
4. Secretariat of the 5th

13. The outcome of the work of the 5th Committee of the 69th Session of the UN is very encouraging. It provides for more than “business as usual” result.
14. We have considered a total number of 54 documents. The total word count of the documents was 1,6 million. It was an increase by 1 million compared to the previous year. Average word count per document: almost 19 000;
15. Some facts: An average novel has over 40 000 words, novella from 17500-40000. It means that a 5th Committee experts should read 54 novellas per session. One per week! What about to come back to a short stories, that has 7500 words in average? That may be a challenge and inspiration for Secretariat, too.
16. Average reading speed is 130 words per minute. To read one average 5th Committee document takes almost 150 minutes. To read all words of current session takes 12 307 minutes. Or 205 hours. Or 8 and ½ days.
17. Average college student reads approx. 450 words per minute; average “high level exec” = 575; average college professor = 675. So I assume a 5th Committee expert is around 1 000. BTW - world speed reading champion = 4,700 words per minute!
18. For the first time in the last 5 years all reports of the Secretariat for the consideration of the 2nd resumed session were issued before the start of the session.
19. More seriously: The adopted Cross Cutting resolution addresses the most sensitive issues. Together with other documents provides for more transparent, responsible and accountable work of the UN and its Peace operations. It is a hope, a promise, that we will reach the zero tolerance limit for any kind of abuse of innocent people, women, children. That we will make the organization more effective, more transparent.
20. There is still a long way to the revitalization and modernization of the United Nations. But we have tried and we should continue to do so. We should discuss further how to improve our work, working methods. Our cooperation and communication – vertical and horizontal on all levels.
21. For me personally it was an exciting year. A rich year. Not an easy one, but, honestly, looking around the world: Are we the ones who should complain? Aren't we the ones who should listen to the pains of the world and make every effort to contribute to the cure of those pains and wounds of our Planet?
22. On the road I had a pleasure and privilege to meet most interesting people, colleagues, and diplomats. Public servants at their best. To learn a lot from you and about the functioning of the system.

23. I thank you and I wish you all the best in your professional and personal life. Have a most enjoyable summer!