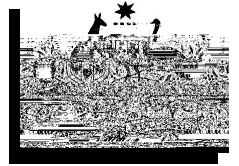


AUSTRALIA



Australian Mission to the United Nations

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 51 6600 Fax 212 351 6610 www.AustraliaUN.org

SIXTH COMMITTEE
19 November 2020

Revitalization of the General Assembly – Item 126

available electronically and on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat to all delegations

The reasons this is important are many. Let me touch briefly on a few.

First, it facilitates a better understanding between delegations of respective positions which assists, inter alia, efforts to identify common ground.

Second, statements delivered in this Committee are more so than in other Committees have a particular value with respect to international law, in certain circumstances, state practice.

Third, the ability to access written statements made by States on its work, is essential for the proper operation of the International Law Commission, which has previously included citations in its reports and other material of statements by States in the now defunct 'PaperSmart'.

We commend the work of the Secretariat this session in including in the 'summaries of meetings' section of the UN's Sixth Committee website to statement submitted by delegations. We strongly urge the continuation and refinement of this practice, in dialogue with member States.

We also urge the Secretariat to upload the material submitted to PaperSmart in previous sessions to the relevant Sixth Committee websites for previous sessions, mirroring the format it has employed this year for this session.

Third, and finally, we think that the work of this Committee would benefit in the future, from an enhanced rotation among the coordinators of our resolutions.

Rotations between delegations could occur at regular intervals, such as every three to four years in line with the regular duration of postings for delegates.

While I have served as a coordinator of the item on 'crimes against humanity' this year. Neither I, nor Australia, will continue in this capacity next session

Such a rotation would more evenly share the workload across our Committee and allow our discussions to benefit from different perspectives and approaches.

Thank you.