

**Statement by H.E Maria Emma Mejía
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

**On behalf of the Group of Friends in Favor of a Woman Candidate for
Secretary-General of the United Nations**

**Sixth Committee
70th Session of the General Assembly
Item 120: “Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly”**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends in Favor of a Woman Candidate for Secretary-General of the United Nations. This cross-regional initiative consists of 48 Member States promoting the idea that the time has come for a woman to hold the highest position at the UN. The Group of Friends congratulates Ambassador Drobnjak and Ambassador Emvula for their re-appointment as co-chairs of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly.

The Group expresses its deep appreciation for the excellent work done in Resolution 69/321, and we fully welcome and support this milestone achievement, which is the result of constructive dialogue among the delegations, work based on consensus and oriented to achieve the long overdue reforms the UN needs.

At its 70th anniversary the UN is living a time of reforms and they must be aimed at improving the role, authority, effectiveness, and efficiency of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group further reiterates the importance of the implementation of Resolution 69/321, especially on *Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads*; noting that the process of

soliciting candidates for Secretary-General will begin in the current session of the General Assembly and all members of the UN must play an active role in it.

Moreover, due to the innovative process in place with this resolution, there is now increasing support for the possibility of selecting and appointing a woman to the post of Secretary-General and the Group firmly believes it is time to consider a woman to the highest position at the UN. For that reason we encourage governments to put forward female candidates for the top job of the Organization.

In this regard, we are pleased to see that some female candidates have already been endorsed by their governments and we suggest others to follow suit. In order to make the selection process more open and inclusive we trust that a good number of women candidates will be presented and considered.

Given the multiple steps in the selection and appointment process and the increasing expectations towards the UN, we hope that the process will be initiated soon and with the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

Mr. Chairman,

The revitalization of the General Assembly is a key component to strengthening the UN, and the members of the Group of Friends are committed to work to achieve progress on this front.

The Group stands ready to engage in a constructive dialogue on this agenda item with all Member States, so we can work together to adopt decisions that are in the best interests of the entire Organization.