



General Assembly

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Seventy-eighth session
First Committee

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly and programme planning

Note by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 September 2023, allocated agenda item 120 (Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly) to all the Main Committees for the purpose of discussing their working methods, as well as considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.

2. At the same meeting, the Assembly allocated agenda item 135 (Programme planning) to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the Assembly to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.

3. The attention of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) is drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution [77/335](#), several of which are highlighted in the first report of the General Committee ([A/78/250](#)), which was considered by the Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting:

(a) Paragraph 35 of the resolution, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need to continue to improve the working methods of the Main Committees, and in that regard: invited each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods, as appropriate; and also invited each Main Committee to submit to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly during the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth sessions, a written update, as appropriate, on progress achieved since the previous update in the efforts aimed at improving the working methods of the Committees ([A/78/250](#), para. 17);

(b) Paragraph 37 of the resolution, in which the Assembly stressed the necessity of aligning the agendas of the Assembly and its Main Committees, consistent with resolution [75/325](#), and encouraged the Assembly and its Main Committees to examine, on a case-by-case basis, all the resolutions and agenda items that focused on the same area, based on their purpose, relevance and content, and to paragraph 38 (*ibid.*, para 18);

(c) Paragraph 42 of the resolution, in which the Assembly welcomed the increasing number of women candidates nominated for the subsidiary organs of the Assembly in seeking to promote gender balance, and encouraged Member States to continue to do so, and paragraph 21 of the same resolution, in which the Assembly



encouraged the President of the General Assembly, supported by the membership, to achieve gender parity across all the co-chairs and co-facilitators appointed for intergovernmental processes, as well as among the invited speakers and panellists for all meetings of the Assembly (*ibid.*, para. 19).

4. The attention of the First Committee is also drawn to paragraph 11 of resolution [77/254](#), in which the General Assembly reiterated that whenever the Committee for Programme and Coordination could not provide conclusions and recommendations on a given subprogramme or programme of the proposed programme budget, the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the Assembly responsible for those mandates would consider the said subprogramme or programme at the very start of its session in order to provide any conclusions and recommendations to the Fifth Committee, at the earliest opportunity, and no later than four weeks after the start of the session, for timely consideration by the Fifth Committee. The Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended, in line with resolution [77/254](#), that the Assembly, at its seventy-eighth session, review the programme plan of programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning”.

5. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided that meetings of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs should make provisions for accessible seating for representatives with disabilities through the following process:

(a) Upon a request by a delegation for accessible seating, the seating order in a given meeting room is changed in such a way as to allow the requesting delegation to move to the closest accessible seat from the one it occupies in accordance with the order established for each session of the Assembly, and the seating order for the rest of the delegations is moved by one seat;

(b) Should there be more than one request for accessible seating, the delegations requesting such seats will move to the accessible seats which are closest to their respective seats, which they occupy in accordance with the order established for each session of the Assembly, and the seating order for the rest of the delegations is moved by the corresponding number of seats, omitting the ones newly occupied by the requesting delegations (*ibid.*, para. 24).

6. At the same meeting, the General Assembly took note of the fact that, once the Assembly adopts a draft resolution or decision, Member States can no longer alter the sponsorship thereof. Likewise, when a Main Committee has adopted a proposal and recommends its adoption by the Assembly, Member States can no longer alter the sponsorship thereof (*ibid.*, para. 52).

Annex**Pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the First Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/313](#)**

Session	Regional group
Seventy-ninth	Latin American and Caribbean States
Eightieth	Western European and other States
Eighty-first	Asia-Pacific States
Eighty-second	Eastern European States
Eighty-third	African States
