



General Assembly

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Agenda item 126

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diamane **Diome** (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. At its 48th meeting, on 21 December 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,¹ adopted decision 75/548 on the revitalization of work of the Committee. In the decision, the Assembly decided that the Bureau of the Committee would convene informal dialogues to discuss the revitalization of the Committee's work in the first months of 2021 and that the Committee would convene a plenary meeting following those dialogues to take stock of the deliberations and, as appropriate, take action on any recommendations, for subsequent approval by the Assembly, to allow any change to come into effect ahead of the seventy-sixth session.

2. Accordingly, the Bureau convened two informal dialogues on the revitalization of the work of the Committee, held virtually on 16 February and 16 June 2021. A plenary meeting was convened on 30 June 2021. An account of the proceedings of the plenary meeting is contained in the relevant summary record.²

II. Consideration of draft decision [A/C.2/75/L.63](#)

3. At its 10th meeting, on 30 June, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Revitalization of the work of the Second Committee" ([A/C.2/75/L.63](#)), as submitted by the Bureau of the Committee.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision and recommended its adoption by the Assembly (see para. 8).

¹ See [A/75/467](#), draft decision II.

² See [A/C.2/75/SR.10](#).



6. Following the adoption of the decision, statements were made by the representatives of Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Mexico and Israel.

7. Statements were also made by the European Union, in its capacity as observer, and the observer for the Holy See.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Revitalization of the work of the Second Committee

The General Assembly, mindful of and without prejudice to the broader ongoing revitalization and alignment processes in the Assembly, other Main Committees and the Economic and Social Council, and noting the measures agreed previously by the General Assembly to adjust the working methods of the Second Committee, including measures adopted on an exceptional basis at its seventy-fifth session in the light of the situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic:

- (a) Recalls its decision 74/537 B of 21 July 2020 on improving the working methods of the Second Committee;
- (b) Takes note of conference room paper A/C.2/75/CRP.5 on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee, prepared by the Bureau of the Committee at the seventy-fifth session;
- (c) Commends the Bureau for its work during the seventy-fifth session, and invites the Bureau to prepare and organize the work of the Second Committee for the seventy-sixth session, in consultation with delegations, building on improvements to working methods introduced at recent sessions;
- (d) Recognizes that some of the measures contained in decision 74/537 B remain to be fully implemented;
- (e) With regard to the general debate and the debates on individual agenda items of the Second Committee:
 - (i) Invites delegations to take into account the theme of the general debate of the Committee when making their interventions during this debate;
 - (ii) Invites the Bureau to continue to make proposals to streamline the debates on individual agenda items of the Committee through joint consideration of one or more agenda items, to be decided after consultation with the wider membership;
- (f) With regard to panel discussions and side events of the Second Committee, invites the Bureau to consider convening the side events of the Committee early on during the session, with the first side event held after the general debate of the General Assembly but before the beginning of the substantive session of the Committee, including by making use of modern technologies as needed;
- (g) With regard to reporting to the Second Committee:
 - (i) Recalls the relevant provisions of decision 74/537 B, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that reports are concise, highlight new developments since the previous report, contain actionable recommendations and include a substantive summary as mandated by the General Assembly in paragraph 76 of its resolution [75/244](#) of 31 December 2020;
 - (ii) Invites the Bureau to continue to seek ways to encourage greater interaction in discussions on reports before the Committee that have been identified in consultations with delegations, including at informal briefings;

- (h) With regard to draft resolutions submitted to the Second Committee:
- (i) Invites delegations to continue their consideration of the periodicity of draft resolutions, and also invites delegations to consider streamlining the updates on draft resolutions, in order to enhance the overall working methods of the Committee;
- (ii) Agrees to begin discussions to determine a common definition of technical rollovers;
- (iii) Invites the Bureau, when needed, to facilitate a separate track of negotiations, early on during the session, aimed at facilitating discussions on cross-cutting issues that would appear in several draft resolutions before the Committee, so as to avoid duplication of discussions across draft resolutions;
- (iv) Invites delegations to consider, where possible, and on their own initiative, co-drafting the draft resolutions;
- (v) Invites the Committee members to consider volunteering to facilitate negotiations on draft resolutions before the Committee, as a way to improve the work of the Committee;
- (i) Decides to continue to discuss and improve the working methods of the Second Committee in future sessions, and to focus the substantive work of the Committee around resolutions that will have, inter alia, the most impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ in the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development;
- (j) Requests the Bureau, in this regard, to continue to update conference room paper A/C.2/75/CRP.5 on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee and to continue to facilitate and guide these efforts;
- (k) Decides to follow up on the implementation of the present decision at its seventy-seventh session.

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).