



General Assembly

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Seventy-sixth session Second Committee

Organization of work of the Second Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Second Committee are listed in the note by the Secretariat ([A/C.2/76/1](#)). Background information on those items can be found in the annotations to the agenda ([A/76/100](#) and [A/76/100/Add.1](#)).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, Assembly decision 75/547 on the programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly, by which the Assembly invited the Bureau of the Second Committee to take into account the provisional timetable of the Committee as contained in conference room paper A/C.2/75/CRP.3, the provisional agenda of the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly ([A/76/150](#)) and the availability of documentation. The number of meetings suggested for the general discussion of the agenda items allocated to the Second Committee is based on past experience and the special circumstances surrounding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

3. The modalities on the arrangements for the work of the Second Committee are specific to the seventy-sixth session only and have been prepared pursuant to the proposals submitted by the Bureau, in consultation with the membership of the Committee, taking into account the limitations and restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic (see message dated 17 September 2021 from the Chair of the Committee for the seventy-sixth session posted on the e-deleGATE portal and conference room paper A/C.2/76/CRP.1 outlining arrangements for business continuity of the Second Committee at the seventy-sixth session). The need for a flexible approach that would allow the Bureau to make adjustments during the session, necessitated by possible additional limitations and restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and in consultation with the membership of the Committee, remains.



List of documents

4. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note ([A/C.2/76/L.1/Add.1](#)), which lists the documentation submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Second Committee.

General debate

5. In accordance with General Assembly decision 75/548 B on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee and following consultations with the membership of the Committee, the Bureau proposed the theme “Crisis, resilience and recovery: accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda” for the general debate, taking into account the theme agreed by the Assembly for the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

6. Under the special circumstances prevailing at the seventy-sixth session, the general debate will be held in person, with each delegation deciding whether it wishes to deliver its statement in person or remotely via live videoconference broadcast in the room or submit its statement in writing, which would be circulated and posted on e-deleGATE and would also be reflected in an annex to the official reports of the Committee. Delegations may make only one national statement during the debate. The statement may cover any or all items allocated to the Committee.

General discussions of agenda items, introduction of reports and question time

7. The general discussions of agenda items will be conducted in informal meetings via a virtual platform. Delegations may also opt to participate in the general discussions through the circulation of written statements to be posted in the Second Committee Place module on e-deleGATE.

8. The introductions of the reports of the Secretary-General will be made through brief oral statements of no more than six minutes at the virtual meeting at which the item is considered. Some flexibility with regard to the time limit may be exercised when two or more reports are introduced in one statement. Immediately following the introduction of reports, and in accordance with the practice of the Main Committees, delegations will be invited to make comments or pose questions to the presenters on the reports introduced. Delegations are invited to participate actively in the dialogues with questions and unscripted comments.

Statements by delegations

9. The lists of speakers for the general debate and the general discussions of individual agenda items opened in the week of 20 September 2021. For planning purposes, inscriptions should be submitted by 30 September 2021. Statements in the general debate should be limited to no more than nine minutes for statements made on behalf of groups and six minutes for national statements. Statements in the general discussions of items should be limited to no more than six minutes for statements made on behalf of groups and four minutes for national statements. For joint consideration of agenda items, the time limits of seven minutes and five minutes, respectively, would be maintained. The lists of speakers for a given meeting will be prepared on the basis of these time limits and will be strictly implemented, including, as necessary, by switching off microphones automatically after the allotted time. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/313](#), delegations are encouraged to adhere to the “all protocol observed” principle and to refrain from listing standard protocol expressions during their statements. In the same resolution, the Assembly

recommended that speakers should be mindful of the speed of statement delivery, bearing in mind the need for accuracy of interpretation.

10. Introduction of draft proposals should be made through written statements, on an exceptional basis, to be circulated through the Second Committee Place module on e-deleGATE.

11. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly and the practice of the Committee, delegations should exercise their right of reply in in-person meetings at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the consideration of the relevant agenda item on that day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the item, if that is sooner. The number of interventions in exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item, with the first intervention limited to five minutes and the second, if any, to three minutes. In accordance with the arrangements for general discussions, any right of reply should be communicated in writing, to be posted on the e-deleGATE portal under the relevant item.

12. Also in accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly and the practice of the Committee, explanations of vote should be limited to five minutes, and points of order should be limited to three minutes.

Conference facilities and meeting arrangements

13. Unless otherwise specified, in-person meetings of the Second Committee will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the combined Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3 or the General Assembly Hall. Likewise, unless otherwise specified in advance, the virtual meetings of the Committee will also be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (with remote interpretation provided in two-hour blocks). The General Assembly has stressed that punctuality is of the utmost importance in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations. In this regard, rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly requiring the presence of at least one quarter of the members of the Committee to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed has been waived by the Assembly.

Informal consultations

14. Informal consultations (without interpretation or other services) on draft proposals will be conducted by the appointed facilitators via a virtual platform. A limited number of informal consultations may be arranged in person if circumstances allow. The Bureau will coordinate a comprehensive calendar of informal consultations, within regular meeting hours, while avoiding parallel negotiations as far as possible.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

15. Pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of section D of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#), the item entitled “Report of the Economic and Social Council” should be considered in its entirety in plenary; subsequently, it was clarified by the General Committee that the relevant parts of chapter I of the report that fall under agenda items already allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned for final action by the Assembly (see [A/59/250/Add.1](#), para. 4).

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

16. Bearing in mind the number of meetings available to the Second Committee, a target date of 24 November 2021 has been set for the conclusion of its work.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee

Wednesday, 15 September 2021

3–4.30 p.m. (*virtual informal meeting*)

Briefing

Friday, 1 October 2021

10 a.m.–11.30 a.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Organizational meeting

Week of 4–8 October 2021

Tuesday, 5 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Keynote address

Opening of the general debate

3–5 p.m. (*virtual informal meeting*)

Introductory statements and joint general discussion on:

Item 17: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

Item 22: Globalization and interdependence:

- (a) Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
- (b) Culture and sustainable development
- (c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries

Wednesday, 6 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

General debate (*continued*)

3–5 p.m. (*virtual informal meeting*)

Introductory statements and joint general discussion on:

Item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

- (a) Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)
- (b) Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Item 26: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition:

- (a) Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
- (b) Natural plant fibres and sustainable development

Thursday, 7 October

10 a.m.–noon (*virtual informal meeting*)

Joint general discussion on:

Item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues and sub-items (a) and (b) (*concluded*)

Item 26: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition and sub-items (a) and (b) (*concluded*)

3–5 p.m. (*virtual informal meeting*)

Introductory statements and joint general discussion on:

Item 23: Groups of countries in special situations:

- (a) **Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**
- (b) **Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries**

Item 27. Towards global partnerships

Friday, 8 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meetings*)

General debate (*concluded*)

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 17 and item 22 and sub-items (a) to (c)

Week of 11–15 October 2021**Monday, 11 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–5 p.m. (*virtual informal meetings*)

Introductory statements and general discussion on:

Item 20: Sustainable development:

- (a) **Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21**
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**
- (c) **Disaster risk reduction**
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind**
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity**
- (g) **Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme**
- (h) **Education for sustainable development**
- (j) **Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**
- (k) **Combating sand and dust storms**
- (l) **Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development**

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 24 and sub-items (a) and (b) and item 26 and sub-items (a) and (b)

Tuesday, 12 October

10 a.m.–noon (*virtual informal meeting*)

General discussion on:

Item 20: Sustainable development and sub-items (a) to (h) and (j) to (l)
(*concluded*)

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 23 and sub-items (a) and (b) and item 27

Wednesday, 13 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–5 p.m. (*virtual informal meetings*)

Introductory statements and joint general discussion on:

Item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions:

- (a) **International trade and development**
- (b) **International financial system and development**
- (c) **External debt sustainability and development**
- (d) **Commodities**
- (e) **Financial inclusion for sustainable development**
- (f) **Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development**
- (g) **Promoting investments for sustainable development**

Item 19: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Thursday, 14 October

10 a.m.–noon and 3–5 p.m. (*virtual informal meetings*)

Introductory statements and general discussion on:

Item 25: Operational activities for development:

- (a) **Operational activities for development of the United Nations system**

(b) South-South cooperation for development

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 20 and sub-items (a) to (d)

Friday, 15 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council¹ on building productive capacities in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States for a more resilient recovery and sustainable development in the post-COVID-19 era

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 18 and sub-items (a) to (g) and item 19

Week of 18–22 October 2021**Monday, 18 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*virtual informal meeting*)

Dialogue with the regional commissions¹

3–5 p.m. (*virtual informal meeting*)

Introductory statement and general discussion on:

Item 64: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items (e) to (h) of item 20 and item 25 and sub-items (a) and (b)

Tuesday, 19 October

10 a.m.–noon (*virtual informal meeting*)

Side event on energy transition for sustainable development and climate action¹

Wednesday, 20 October

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items (j) to (l) of item 20 and item 64

Week of 8–12 November 2021**Wednesday, 10 November**

3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Action on draft proposals²

¹ Concept note will be available on the website of the Committee (<https://www.un.org/en/ga/second/76/events.shtml>).

² Meetings of the Committee to take action on draft proposals are scheduled on a preliminary basis and will be convened and/or rescheduled depending on the availability of documentation and conference facilities.

Week of 15–19 November 2021

Tuesday, 16 November

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Action on draft proposals²

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of final draft proposals

Thursday, 18 November

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Action on draft proposals²

Week of 22–26 November 2021

Monday, 22 November

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Action on draft proposals²

Tuesday, 23 November

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meetings*)

Item 139: Programme planning

Action on draft proposals²

Wednesday, 24 November

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Item 122: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Action on draft proposals²

Conclusion of the work of the Second Committee
