



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth 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.2/78/1](#)). Background information on those items can be found in the annotations to the agenda ([A/78/100](#) and [A/78/100/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 77/539 on the programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-eighth 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.2/77/CRP.1, the provisional agenda of the seventy-eighth session of the Assembly ([A/78/150](#)) 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.

##### List of documents

3. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note ([A/C.2/78/L.1/Add.1](#)), which lists the documentation submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Second Committee.

##### General debate

4. In accordance with General Assembly decision 77/538 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 “Building a sustainable recovery for all” for the general debate, taking into account the theme agreed by the Assembly for the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development.



5. 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**

6. During the general discussions of agenda items, the introductions of the reports of the Secretary-General will be made through brief oral statements of no more than seven minutes at the 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**

7. The lists of speakers for the general debate and the general discussions of individual agenda items will be opened on 13 September 2023. For planning purposes, inscriptions in the general debate should be submitted by 26 September and in the general discussions by 28 September. In accordance with General Assembly decision 65/530, statements in the general debate should be limited to no more than 10 minutes for statements made on behalf of groups and 7 minutes for national statements. Statements in the general discussions of items should be limited to no more than seven minutes for statements made on behalf of groups and five minutes for national statements. The lists of speakers for a given meeting will be prepared on the basis of these time limits, which 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.

8. 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.

9. 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**

10. Unless otherwise specified, in-person meetings of the Second Committee will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Conference Room 2. 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**

11. In accordance with established practice, informal consultations will be used for expressing general observations on the proposals and for adopting them ad referendum. All drafting will be done at the level of informal consultations (without interpretation or other services) and will be conducted by the appointed facilitators. 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**

12. 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**

13. Bearing in mind the number of meetings available to the Second Committee, a target date of 22 November 2023 has been set for the conclusion of its work.

## Annex

### **Draft programme of work of the Second Committee**

#### **Thursday, 28 September 2023**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Organizational meeting

**Item 135: Programme planning**

#### **Week of 2–6 October 2023**

##### **Monday, 2 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Keynote address

Opening of the general debate

3–6 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

##### **Tuesday, 3 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

3–6 p.m.

General debate (*concluded*)

##### **Wednesday, 4 October**

3–6 p.m.

Introductory statements and general discussion on:

**Item 20: Groups of countries in special situations:**

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

##### **Thursday, 5 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

Introductory statements and joint general discussion on:

**Item 16: 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**
- (h) **Promotion of inclusive and effective international cooperation on tax matters at the United Nations**

**Item 17: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development**

**Friday, 6 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

Introductory statements and joint general discussion on:

**Item 15: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development**

**Item 19: Globalization and interdependence:**

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

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

**Week of 9–13 October 2023**

**Monday, 9 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

Introductory statements and general discussion on:

**Item 18: 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) **Education for sustainable development**

- (h) **Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**
- (i) **Combating sand and dust storms**
- (j) **Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development**

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 16 and sub-items (a) to (d) and item 17

## **Tuesday, 10 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council<sup>1</sup>

3–6 p.m.

General discussion on:

### **Item 18: Sustainable development and sub-items (a) to (j) (*concluded*)**

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 15 and item 19 and sub-items (a) to (c)

## **Wednesday, 11 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

Introductory statements and joint general discussion on:

### **Item 21: 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 23: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition:**

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

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items (e) to (h) of item 16

## **Thursday, 12 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*informal meeting*)

Side event<sup>2</sup>

3–6 p.m.

Introductory statements and general discussion on:

### **Item 22: Operational activities for development:**

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

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<sup>1</sup> A concept note will be made available on the website of the Committee ([www.un.org/en/ga/second/78/events.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/78/events.shtml)).

<sup>2</sup> A concept note will be made available on the website of the Committee ([www.un.org/en/ga/second/78/events.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/78/events.shtml)).

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

### **Friday, 13 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

General discussion on:

**Item 22: Operational activities for development and sub-items (a) and (b)**  
(concluded)

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 21 and sub-items (a) and (b) and item 23 and sub-items (a) and (b)

## **Week of 16–20 October 2023**

### **Monday, 16 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*informal meeting*)

Dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions<sup>3</sup>

3–6 p.m.

Introductory statement and general discussion on:

**Item 59: 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 (c) to (f) of item 18

### **Tuesday, 17 October**

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

### **Wednesday, 18 October**

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items (g) to (j) of item 18 and item 59

## **Week of 6–10 November 2023**

### **Thursday, 9 November**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Introduction of and action on draft proposals<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> A concept note will be made available on the website of the Committee ([www.un.org/en/ga/second/78/events.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/78/events.shtml)).

<sup>4</sup> 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.

**Week of 13–17 November 2023**

**Tuesday, 14 November**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Action on draft proposals<sup>4</sup>

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

**Thursday, 16 November**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Action on draft proposals<sup>4</sup>

**Week of 20–24 November 2023**

**Tuesday, 21 November**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

Action on draft proposals<sup>4</sup>

**Wednesday, 22 November**

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

General discussion on:

**Item 120: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**

Action on draft proposals<sup>4</sup>

3–6 p.m.

Action on draft proposals<sup>4</sup>

Conclusion of the work of the Second Committee

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