



General Assembly

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**Seventy-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)**

Organization of work

Note by the Chair

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document [A/C.4/78/1](#). Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-eighth session ([A/78/100](#)) and [A/78/100/Add.1](#).¹
2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls upon each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.
3. The General Assembly decided that the seventy-eighth session should recess on Monday, 4 December 2023, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Friday, 13 November 2023 (see [A/78/250](#), paras. 20 and 21).
4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda, with the understanding that they may be revised periodically, as appropriate. The Committee will also consider certain items on its agenda jointly in order to ensure the full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, the conference services have allocated 27 meetings to the Committee and have urged the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the time allotted. Should the Committee wish to change the dates on which it considers items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below.

¹ For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see [A/78/251](#).



Date/time

Programme

Week of 25–29 September**Thursday, 28 September**

10 a.m.

Organization of work

Approval of programme of work

Approval of time limits for statements

Establishment of Working Group of the Whole on the peaceful uses of outer space

Consideration of aide-mémoire containing requests to petition on Non-Self-Governing Territories

Week of 2–6 October**Monday, 2 October**

3 p.m.

Introductory statements and joint general debate on decolonization items:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 54)**Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 55)****Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 56)****Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 57)****Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 58)**

Approval of requests to petition on Non-Self-Governing Territories

Tuesday, 3 October

3 p.m.

Consideration of decolonization items (*continues*)

Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee

6 p.m.

Closure of the list of speakers on decolonization items

Deadline for submission of proposals on decolonization items

Wednesday, 4 October

3 p.m.

Consideration of decolonization items (*continues*)

Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee

Date/time

Programme

Thursday, 5 October

- 3 p.m. Consideration of decolonization items (*continues*)
- Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee
- 6 p.m. Deadline for submission of proposals on “Assistance in mine action” and “Effects of atomic radiation”

Friday, 6 October

- 3 p.m. Consideration of decolonization items (*continues*)
- Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee
- Joint general debate on decolonization items (*continues*)

Week of 9–13 October**Monday, 9 October**

- 10 a.m. Consideration of decolonization items (*continues*)
- Joint general debate on decolonization items (*continues*)

Tuesday, 10 October

- 10 a.m. Consideration of decolonization items (*continues*)
- Joint general debate on decolonization items (*continues*)

Wednesday, 11 October

- 10 a.m. Consideration of decolonization items (*continues*)
- Joint general debate on decolonization items (*continues*)
- Action on proposals submitted under decolonization items
- 3 p.m. Closure of the list of speakers on “Assistance in mine action”
- Deadline for submission of proposals on “Questions relating to information”

Thursday, 12 October

- 10 a.m. Introductory statements, interactive dialogue, general debate and action on proposals
- Assistance in mine action (item 46)**
- Joint general debate on decolonization items (*continues*)
- Action on proposals submitted under decolonization items
- 3 p.m. Closure of the list of speakers on “Effects of atomic radiation”

Friday, 13 October

10 a.m. Introductory statements, general debate and action on proposals

Effects of atomic radiation (item 47)

Joint general debate on decolonization items (*concludes*)

Action on proposals submitted under decolonization items

Week of 16–20 October**Tuesday, 17 October**

3 p.m. Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general debate

Questions relating to information (item 53)

6 p.m. Closure of the list of speakers on “Questions relating to information”

Deadline for submission of proposals on “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”

Wednesday, 18 October

3 p.m. **Questions relating to information (item 53)**

General debate (*continues*)

Thursday, 19 October

3 p.m. **Questions relating to information (item 53)**

General debate (*concludes*)

Action on proposals

Week of 23–27 October**Tuesday, 24 October**

10 a.m. Introductory statement and general debate

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 48)

Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

3 p.m. Closure of the list of speakers on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Thursday, 26 October

10 a.m. **International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 48)**

General debate (*continues*)

Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continues*)

3 p.m. Deadline for submission of proposals on “Comprehensive review of special political missions”

Date/time

Programme

Friday, 27 October

10 a.m.

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 48)General debate (*concludes*)Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*concludes*)

Action on proposals

Week of 30 October–3 November**Monday, 30 October**

3 p.m.

Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general debate

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 51)

6 p.m.

Closure of the list of speakers on peacekeeping operations

Tuesday, 31 October

3 p.m.

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 51)General debate (*continues*)**Wednesday, 1 November**

3 p.m.

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 51)General debate (*concludes*)

6 p.m.

Deadline for submission of proposals on “United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” and “Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories”

Deadline for submission of proposals on all outstanding items

Closure of the list of speakers on special political missions

Thursday, 2 November

3 p.m.

Introductory statements, interactive dialogue, general debate and action on proposals

Comprehensive review of special political missions (item 52)**Friday, 3 November**

3 p.m.

Introductory statement, question-and-answer period and general debate

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 49)

6 p.m.

Closure of the list of speakers on United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Date/time

Programme

Week of 6–10 November**Monday, 6 November**

- 10 a.m. **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 49)**
General debate (*concludes*)
- 3 p.m. Introductory statement, question-and-answer period and general debate
Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories (item 50)

Tuesday, 7 November

- 10 a.m. **Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories (item 50)**
General debate (*continues*)
- 3 p.m. Closure of the list of speakers on the item on Israeli practices

Wednesday, 8 November

- 10 a.m. **Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories (item 50)**
General debate (*concludes*)
Consideration of outstanding agenda items

Thursday, 9 November

- 10 a.m. **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 49)**
Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories (item 50)
Introduction of and action on proposals
Action on proposals on all outstanding agenda items
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (item 120)
Proposed programme of work and timetable for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly and consideration of working methods
Programme planning (item 135)
Conclusion of the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the main part of the session

5. In the preparation of the timetable above, the Chair was guided by the following considerations:

- (a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one joint general debate covering agenda items 54 to 58 and individual debates on agenda items

46 to 53, 120 and 135, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items, and the Chair suggests that the Committee devote its meetings from Tuesday, 3 October to Friday, 6 October, to the hearing of petitioners;

(c) Item 120, Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, is allocated to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programme of work;

(d) Item 135, Programme planning, is allocated to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly to enhance the discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports. If the Assembly allocates any report submitted under this item to the Fourth Committee, the Committee shall revert to this item.

6. Subject to the provisional programme of work above being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chair wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering the following agenda items be closed as follows:

Items 54 to 58: Tuesday, 3 October, at 6 p.m.

Item 53: Tuesday, 17 October, at 6 p.m.

Item 51: Monday, 30 October, at 6 p.m.

The Committee will take decisions on the closure of the list of speakers relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Chair also wishes to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document [A/78/250](#), sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the decision of the General Assembly that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively, both for plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the seventy-eighth session. The attention of the members is also drawn to the decision of the Assembly to waive, at its seventy-eighth session, the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chair to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see [A/78/250](#), para. 30).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes. In this connection, the Chair will set the time limit for the petitioners as deemed necessary.

10. The list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is contained in document [A/C.4/78/INF/1](#), which will be updated as necessary.