



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session Sixth Committee

### Organization of work

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat considers it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions [1898 \(XVIII\)](#) of 11 November 1963 and [32/71](#) of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to draw the attention of the Committee to the information below.

#### Items allocated to the Sixth Committee

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, held on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly allocated 32 items to the Sixth Committee. The list of those items, organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, is contained in a note by the Secretariat on the allocation of agenda items to the Sixth Committee, which has been circulated as a document of the Committee ([A/C.6/75/1](#)). The Committee's attention is drawn to the relevant parts of sections III and IV of the report of the General Committee ([A/75/250](#)) concerning the agenda of the Main Committees and to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of the same report. Those recommendations were approved by the General Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting.

#### Documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee

3. The table below lists the documents of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of the Assembly at preceding sessions, as well as to documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Committee,<sup>1</sup> in accordance with requests of Member States. The attention of delegates is also drawn to the website of the Committee.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the seventy-fifth session. The list of documents is based on information available as at 22 September 2020.

<sup>2</sup> [www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/index.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/index.shtml).



	<i>Projected date of issuance</i>
<b>Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]</b>	No advance documentation
<b>Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [77]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/75/228</a> )	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/75/217</a> )	Early October
<b>Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-third session [78]</b>	
Report of the Commission ( <a href="#">A/75/17</a> )	Late October
<b>United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [79]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/75/___</a> )	Mid-October
<b>Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy second session [80]</b>	
(oral report on paragraphs (b) and (c) of General Assembly decision 74/566)	27 October
<b>Crimes against humanity [81]</b>	No advance documentation
<b>Expulsion of aliens [82]</b>	No advance documentation
<b>Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [83]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/75/263</a> )	Issued
<b>Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [84]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/75/168</a> )	Issued
<b>Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [85]</b>	
Report of the Special Committee ( <a href="#">A/75/33</a> )	Issued
Report of the Secretary General on the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council ( <a href="#">A/75/145</a> )	Issued
<b>The rule of law at the national and international levels [86]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities ( <a href="#">A/75/284</a> )	Early October
<b>The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction [87]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/75/151</a> )	Issued

**Responsibility of international organizations [88]**

Report of the Secretary-General: compilation of decisions of international courts and tribunals ([A/75/80](#)) Issued

Report of the Secretary-General: comments and information received from Governments and international organizations ([A/75/282](#)) Issued

**Protection of persons in the event of disasters [89]**

Report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/214](#)) Issued

**Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework [90]**

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations ([A/75/136](#)) Issued

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism [114]**

Report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/176](#)) Issued

**Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [126]**

(adoption of a provisional programme of work for the seventy-fifth session) (resolution [58/316](#)) No advance documentation

**Programme planning [142]**

General Assembly resolutions [58/269](#), [62/224](#), [63/247](#), [64/229](#), [65/244](#), [66/8](#), [66/294](#), [67/236](#), [69/17](#), [70/8](#), [71/6](#), [72/9](#), [73/269](#) and [74/251](#) Issued

**Administration of justice at the United Nations [152]**

Report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/162](#) and [A/75/162/Add.1](#)) Issued

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services ([A/75/160](#)) Issued

Report of the Internal Justice Council ([A/75/154](#)) Issued

**Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [171]**

Report of the Committee ([A/75/26](#)) Mid-October

**Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly [172]**

Letter dated 2 May 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/66/141](#)) (see decisions [66/527](#), [67/525](#), [68/528](#), [69/527](#), [70/523](#), [71/524](#), [72/523](#), [73/534](#), and [74/523](#)) Issued

**Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly [173]**

Letter dated 30 April 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/70/141](#)) (see decisions [70/524](#), [71/525](#), [72/524](#), [73/535](#) and [74/524](#)) Issued

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**Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly**  
[174]

Letter dated 10 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/70/142](#)) (see decisions 70/525, 71/526, 72/525, 73/536 and 74/525) Issued

**Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat in the General Assembly** [175]

Note verbale dated 11 August 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/194](#)) (see decisions 72/526, 73/537 and 74/526) Issued

**Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly** [176]

Note verbale dated 12 August 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/195](#)) (see decisions 72/527, 73/538 and 74/527) Issued

**Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly** [177]

Letter dated 16 August 2019 from the representatives of France, Germany and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/291](#)) (see decision 74/528) Issued

**Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly** [178]

Letter dated 16 August 2019 from the representatives of France, Germany and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/292](#)) (see decision 74/529) Issued

**Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly** [179]

Letter dated 16 August 2019 from the representatives of China, Cambodia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/293](#)) (see decision 74/530) Issued

**Observer status for the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) in the General Assembly** [180]

Letter dated 9 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/75/142](#)) Issued

**Observer status for the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute in the General Assembly** [181]

Letter dated 16 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/75/143](#)) Issued

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**Observer status for the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly [182]**

Letter dated 12 August 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/75/192](#))

Issued

**Observer status for the Global Dryland Alliance in the General Assembly [183]**

Letter dated 15 August 2020 from the representatives Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Qatar and Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/75/194](#))

Issued

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**Programme of work**

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session 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 to each item.

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#) on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the Assembly, at its 51st plenary meeting, held on 18 December 2019, adopted decision 74/521 containing the provisional programme of work of the Committee for the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly.

6. The General Assembly, at its 2nd plenary meeting, held on 18 September 2020, upon the recommendation of the General Committee ([A/75/250](#), para. 23), fixed the target date of 20 November 2020 for the completion of the work of the Sixth Committee.

7. The Bureau of the Committee has considered the provisional programme of work as contained in decision 74/521 and has taken into account the allocation of new items to the Committee by the Assembly and the anticipated workload at the present session. The Bureau has also taken into account the exceptional circumstances occasioned by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as a result of which the seventy-fifth session has had to be reorganized in order to take into account the medical guidance for the conduct of in-person meetings. In this connection, the following should be noted: (a) all meetings are to be held subject to the general guidance of the medical service of the Organization, with full respect for social distancing and related requirements; and (b) plenary meetings are to be held in-person (during the slotted times), statements in plenary are to be subject to agreed time limits with delegations encouraged to present only abridged versions of their statements

(and to transmit their full statements to the Secretariat for posting online);<sup>3</sup> (c) all working group meetings are to be held online with remote simultaneous interpretation (with the limit of two hours per meeting), and reports by the Chairs of working groups are to be presented at plenary meetings; (d) coordinators of draft resolutions are to introduce zero drafts in the plenary meeting immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the respective agenda item; (e) informal consultations are to be organized by coordinators, with the assistance of the Secretariat, over online platforms, without interpretation (during available empty slots); and (f) draft resolutions are to be introduced and adopted at in-person meetings. It is emphasized that the proposed working arrangements are exceptional in nature, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, and do not constitute a precedent for working arrangements for the Sixth Committee at future sessions of the General Assembly. A tabular form of the proposed programme below (indicating the slotted times whether in the morning or afternoon) will be circulated to delegations in an electronic format.

	<i>Approximate dates of consideration</i>
Sixth Committee (organization of work)	6 October
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [114]	6, 7 and 10 October
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [77]	12 and 14 October
Crimes against humanity [81]	15 October
Administration of justice at the United Nations [152]	15 October
Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework [90]	19 October
The rule of law at the national and international levels [86]	19, 20 and 22 October
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [171]	22 October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [85]	23 October
Protection of persons in the event of disasters [89]	23 October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-second session [80]	27 October
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction [87]	27 and 28 October
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [84]	28 and 30 October
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [83]	30 October and 3 November
Expulsion of aliens [82]	3 November

<sup>3</sup> Statements should be transmitted to [estatement@un.org](mailto:estatement@un.org), in both PDF and Word format at least one hour before delivery, in order to be made available online in the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations*. Delegations should be aware that only the delivered component of a statement will appear in the summary records of the Sixth Committee.

	<i>Approximate dates of consideration</i>
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [79]	5 November
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-third session [78]	5 November
Responsibility of international organizations [88]	6 November
Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly [172]	10 November
Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly [173]	10 November
Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly [174]	10 November
Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat in the General Assembly [175]	10 November
Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly [176]	10 November
Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly [177]	10 November
Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly [178]	10 November
Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly [179]	10 November
Observer status for the Small Island Developing States Dock (SIDS DOCK) in the General Assembly [180]	10 November
Observer status for the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute in the General Assembly [181]	10 November
Observer status for the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly [182]	10 November
Observer status for the Global Dryland Alliance in the General Assembly [183]	10 November
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [126]	11 and 20 November
Programme planning [142]	20 November
Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]	20 November
In reserve	19 November

### **Establishment of working groups and holding of consultations**

8. Concerning agenda item 77, entitled “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”, the General Assembly, by its resolution [74/181](#), reiterated its decision that the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, should be continued during its seventy-fifth

session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee, and, for that purpose, invited further comments from Member States on that report, including on the question of future action. In that light, two meetings, to be held on 14 and 21 October, have been suggested for that purpose.

9. Regarding agenda item 87, entitled “The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction”, the General Assembly, by its resolution [74/192](#), decided that the Sixth Committee should continue its consideration of the item, without prejudice to the consideration of the topic and related issues in other forums of the United Nations, and for that purpose decided to establish, at its seventy-fifth session, a working group of the Sixth Committee to continue to undertake a thorough discussion of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction. In that regard, two meetings, to be held on 30 October and 5 November, have been suggested for that purpose.

10. Concerning agenda item 114, entitled “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, the General Assembly, by its resolution [74/194](#), decided to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution [54/110](#) concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In that light, three meetings, to be held on 16 October and on 3 and 6 November, have been suggested for that purpose.

11. The consideration of the reports of the working groups in plenary is scheduled for 10 November. It has also been suggested to hold informal consultations regarding agenda item 152, entitled “Administration of justice at the United Nations”, on 19 October.

12. In view of the limited conference services available to the Sixth Committee (see para. 22 below), any meetings for the working groups or for informal consultations are accommodated within the overall meetings allocated to the Committee. As indicated in paragraph 7 above, such meetings will, on an exceptional basis, be held in an online format either with remote simultaneous interpretation (for working group meetings) or without interpretation (for informal consultations).

### **Statements by delegations**

13. The list of speakers for the debate on all agenda items will open on Monday, 28 September 2020. Delegations are invited to inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module for the Sixth Committee in the e-deleGATE portal.

14. 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.

15. In accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, delegations should exercise their right of reply 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 first statement should be limited to five minutes and the second, if any, to three minutes.



## Draft resolutions

16. The initiation and sponsorship of draft resolutions, where applicable, will be undertaken electronically through the eSponsorship module for the Sixth Committee in the e-deleGATE portal.

17. Unless otherwise agreed, coordinators or main sponsors, as applicable, of proposals for draft resolutions are encouraged to hold at least one informal consultation per proposal. The Secretariat will provide assistance where necessary. Informal consultations should be announced sufficiently in advance, including in the *Journal of the United Nations*, so as to allow participation by representatives of all Member States. Once consultations have concluded, it is the practice of the Sixth Committee to place proposals for draft resolutions under a silence procedure, prior to their submission for processing and issuance in all official languages as limited (“L”) documents.

18. All delegations wishing to sponsor a proposal for a draft resolution, where applicable, are encouraged to do so electronically through the eSponsorship module, rather than during the formal proceedings of the Committee. This is without prejudice to the possibility of delegations sponsoring a proposal for a draft resolution at the time of the Committee’s action on the latter during a plenary meeting. Sponsorship should take place in the Sixth Committee, given that, once the Committee has adopted a proposal for a draft resolution and recommended its adoption by the General Assembly, its sponsorship can no longer be altered by Member States. Proposals for draft resolutions submitted on behalf of the Bureau are not subject to sponsorship.

19. Pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, “no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General”. It is therefore imperative that the Sixth Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation of estimates of expenditure by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. Bearing in mind that 20 November has been fixed as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 6 above), 12 November would have to be considered the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications, except for draft resolutions concerning items to be considered after that date. When submitting such proposals, delegations may also wish to bear in mind that, in most cases, a period of more than 48 hours is required for the Secretary-General to review the programme budget implications of proposals.

20. Each coordinator or main sponsor, as applicable, of proposals for draft resolutions will be invited to introduce their respective draft resolutions as issued in limited distribution (“L”) documents. Such introductions take place at plenary meetings, and will be announced in advance, including in the *Journal*.

21. Except for draft resolutions introduced at the final meeting of the substantive part of the session on 20 November 2020, it is the practice of the Committee to take action on each draft resolution at the plenary meeting following that at which the draft resolution was introduced, or at a later date. Any anticipated action on draft resolutions or decisions will be announced in advance, including in the *Journal* and on the website of the Committee. It is the practice of the Sixth Committee to strive for the adoption of draft resolutions without taking a vote.

**Conference resources available**

22. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold no more than three to four plenary meetings per week. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 to 6 p.m.

23. Unless otherwise specified, formal meetings of the Committee (in-person) will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. in the combined Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3. The meetings of the Working Groups will be held in an online format from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m., as per the proposed programme of work, unless otherwise specified in advance. The General Assembly has stressed that a punctual start to the meetings is critical to the efficient utilization of services allocated to the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice, rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly could be waived with respect to the quorum needed to declare a meeting open.

24. More detailed guidance and information on the special arrangements which have been put in place to ensure the safe conduct of in-person meetings will be communicated separately to all delegations in advance of the session.

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