



General Assembly

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Agenda item 18

Macroeconomic policy questions

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled:

“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.”

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 1 October 2021, the Committee, taking into account the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the limitations on meetings held on United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, as well as available technological and procedural solutions, and bearing in mind the conference room paper of the Bureau of the Second Committee on the work of the Committee during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly,¹ approved the working arrangements of the Committee for the seventy-sixth session as set out in the organization of work of the Committee.²

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in eight parts, under the symbols A/76/531, A/76/531/Add.1, A/76/531/Add.2, A/76/531/Add.3, A/76/531/Add.4, A/76/531/Add.5, A/76/531/Add.6 and A/76/531/Add.7.

¹ Available at <https://www.un.org/en/ga/second/76/crp1bureaupaper.pdf>.

² See A/C.2/76/L.1.



3. The Committee convened virtual informal meetings on 13 October 2021 to hear introductory statements and hold a general discussion on the item and sub-items jointly with agenda item 19, “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development”. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in the annex to the present report. Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 5th meetings, on 5, 6, and 8 October.³ Action on the item was taken at the 7th to 10th meetings, on 18, 22 and 23 November.⁴ An account of the Committee’s further consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 18

Macroeconomic policy questions

No documents were submitted under this item.

Item 18 (a)

International trade and development

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its seventieth executive session, Geneva, 3 to 5 February 2021 ([A/76/15 \(Part I\)](#))

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-eighth session, Geneva, 21 June to 2 July 2021 ([A/76/15 \(Part II\)](#))

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its thirty-second special session, Geneva, 6–8 and 17 September 2021 ([A/76/15 \(Part III\)](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries ([A/76/310](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on international trade and development ([A/76/213](#))

Item 18 (b)

International financial system and development

Report of the Secretary-General on the international financial system and development ([A/76/230](#))

Item 18 (c)

External debt sustainability and development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on external debt sustainability and development ([A/76/214](#))

Item 18 (d)

Commodities

Report of the Secretary-General on world commodity trends and prospects ([A/76/215](#))

³ See [A/C.2/76/SR.2](#), [A/C.2/76/SR.3](#), [A/C.2/76/SR.4](#) and [A/C.2/76/SR.5](#).

⁴ See [A/C.2/76/SR.7](#), [A/C.2/76/SR.8](#), [A/C.2/76/SR.9](#) and [A/C.2/76/SR.10](#).

Item 18 (e)**Financial inclusion for sustainable development**

No documents were submitted under this sub-item.

Item 18 (f)**Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development**

No documents were submitted under this sub-item.⁵

Item 18 (g)**Promoting investments for sustainable development**

Note by the Secretariat on promoting investments for sustainable development ([A/76/243](#)).

⁵ Pursuant to resolution [75/206](#), dedicated sections on the topic have been prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as part of the *Sustainable Development Goals Pulse* report (available at <https://sdgpulse.unctad.org/>) and the *Trade and Development Report* (available at <https://sdgpulse.unctad.org/illicit-financial-flows/>).

Annex

General discussion

1. In accordance with its agreed organization of work ([A/C.2/76/L.1](#)), the Second Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 18 and its sub-items (a) to (g) jointly with agenda item 19, “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development”, in informal virtual meetings on 13 October 2021, during which it heard introductory statements under item 18 (a) by the President of the Trade and Development Board (United Republic of Tanzania), the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and an Economic Affairs Officer in the Economic Analysis and Policy Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; under item 18 (b) by the Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; under items 18 (c) and (f) by the Chief of the Debt and Development Finance Branch in the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD; under item 18 (d) by the Officer-in-Charge of the Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD; and under item 18 (g) by the Chief of the Investment Policies Branch in the Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD.
2. A special address was also made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development on the outcomes of the fifteenth session of UNCTAD (UNCTAD XV), held virtually from 3 to 7 October and hosted by Barbados.
3. At the informal virtual meeting held in the morning of 13 October, statements were made by the representatives of Guinea (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Kazakhstan (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries), Morocco (on behalf of the Group of African States), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Qatar, Thailand, Ethiopia, China, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt, Ghana, Cuba, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.
4. In the subsequent informal meeting held in the afternoon of 13 October, statements were made by the representatives of Malaysia, Costa Rica, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Senegal, Maldives, the Russian Federation, Belarus, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nigeria, Zambia, Angola, Togo, Saudi Arabia, as well as the observer for the Holy See and the representative of the International Trade Centre.
5. Statements delivered under the item that were provided to the Secretariat are available in the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations* online.¹

¹ See <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/c53cd100-a51a-ec11-8311-0abf1fa886b5/2021-10-13> and <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/8a3bd3f9-2efe-ea11-9116-0050569e8b67/2021-10-13/statements>.