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**Special Political and Decolonization Committee  
(Fourth Committee)**

**Revitalization of the Special Political and  
Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)**

**Non-paper submitted by the Chairman**

(as approved by the Committee on 11 March 2005)

**Introduction**

1. Further to General Assembly resolutions 58/126 and 58/316, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) reviewed its practices and working methods during the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.
2. The members of the Fourth Committee agree on the continuing relevance and importance of the work of their Committee. They further agree on the necessity of retaining and strengthening the political character of the work of the Fourth Committee. The specific proposals relating to changes in the working methods, agenda items and related resolutions should be seen in this light.

**Working methods**

3. The members agree that greater use should be made of interactive debates, panel discussions and “question time” with representatives of the Secretariat, United Nations experts and, in informal meetings, with other stakeholders. Specifically, the following changes in working methods have been proposed.
4. With regard to the item “Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects”, this interactive debate should be divided up to correspond to chapters of the reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. In this context, special attention should be given to the subject of peacebuilding in the context of addressing post-conflict situations.
5. Concerning the item “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, representatives of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should give an interactive presentation on its work at the beginning of the first meeting on this item, followed by a question and answer period.

6. The items “Questions relating to information” and “United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” should also have question and answer periods.

### **Agenda items**

7. In order to retain and strengthen the political character of the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, its members agree that the General Assembly should consider allocating items of such a nature to the Committee in order to allow for a more in-depth exchange of views and to benefit from the proposed interactive methods of work of the Fourth Committee, where appropriate.

8. The following items, among others, should be considered in this context:

- “Prevention of armed conflict”;
- “Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”.

9. The members agree that the General Assembly could consider allocating to the Fourth Committee country-specific items of internationally predominant political nature and of pertinence to the Committee, after consultations with the sponsors of resolutions pertaining to these items.

10. The members believe that the item “Assistance in mine action” does not fit well within the agenda of the Committee. They request the General Assembly to consider relocating the item from the agenda of the Fourth Committee to another forum.

11. Regarding the item “Effects of atomic radiation”, the members agree that the General Assembly should consider relocating it to another forum. If the item stays on the agenda of the Fourth Committee, the resolution on this item should be biennialized, containing a provision which would allow the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to continue to meet annually.

12. The members agree that the number of meetings on the item “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space” should be reduced from four to three.

13. The members note that considerable progress has been made over the past 10 years in streamlining the resolutions on the item “United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” and note the importance of exploring the possibility of further streamlining. Concerning the item “Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories”, members agree in their hope for genuine progress in the Middle East which would facilitate the streamlining of resolutions under this agenda item by their sponsors.

14. Regarding the item “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”, the members agree that the Fourth Committee should request the Special Committee to continue to examine possibilities for streamlining its work and to present concrete proposals for further consideration by the Fourth Committee.