



General Assembly

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LIMITED

A/C.6/46/L.1
20 September 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth 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 finds 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 General Assembly, to draw the Sixth Committee's attention to the following.

I. ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly decided to allocate to the Sixth Committee 13 items. The titles of these items and their numbers are reproduced in the letter dated 20 September 1991 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/46/1).

II. DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

3. The following table lists the documents of the forty-sixth 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 which are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of preceding sessions of the General Assembly, as

* The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the forty-sixth session. The listing of documents has been done on the basis of communications and reports available as at 20 September 1991.

well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee, in accordance with requests of Member States. The items are arranged in the order in which they appear in the letter dated 20 September 1991 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/46/1).

Projected date
of issuance

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the
Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider
Appreciation of International Law (124)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/)

10 November 1991

Measures to prevent international terrorism which
endangers or takes innocent human lives or jeopardizes
fundamental freedoms and study of the underlying causes
of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which
lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and
which cause some people to sacrifice human lives,
including their own, in an attempt to effect radical
changes (125)

(a) Report of the Secretary-General;

(b) Convening, under the auspices of the United
Nations of an international conference to
define terrorism and to differentiate it from
the struggle of peoples for national
liberation

Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/346)

23-27 September 1991

Progressive development of the principles and norms of
international law relating to the new international
economic order (126)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/352)

Issued

United Nations Decade of International Law (127)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/372)

10-15 October 1991

Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/383)

23 September 1991

Letter dated 4 February 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of the Philippines to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
(A/46/79)

Issued

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Projected date
of issuance

Letter dated 22 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/317-S/22823)

Issued

Letter dated 30 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/335)

Issued

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session (128)

Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/46/10)

English, French and Spanish
23 September 1991
Arabic, Chinese and Russian
23-27 September 1991

Note by the Secretary-General (A/46/405)

Issued

Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fourth session (129)

Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/46/17)

Issued

Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/349)

10 October 1991

Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto (130)

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-first session, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/44/10)

Issued

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (131)

Report of the Special Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/46/33)

23 September 1991

Projected date
of issuance

Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes
between States: a selective Bibliography
(ST/LIB/SER.B/39 (Sales No. 91.I.49))

23 September 1991

Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/383)

23 September 1991

Letter dated 30 July 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of Malta to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/335)

Issued

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host
Country (132)

Report of the Committee, Official Records
of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session,
Supplement No. 26 (A/46/26)

15 November 1991

Additional protocol on consular functions to the
Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (133)

Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/348)

27 September 1991

Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness
between States (135)

Letters dated 5 January 1991, 7 July 1991 and
9 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
(A/46/59-E/1991/7; A/46/292-S/22769; A/46/294)

Issued

Letters dated 15 April 1991 and 9 July 1991 from
the Chargé d'affaires a.i. and the Permanent
Representative of the Permanent Mission of
Czechoslovakia addressed to the Secretary-General
(A/46/153-S/22506; A/46/300-S/22782)

Issued

Letter dated 26 June 1991 from the Permanent
Representatives of the Permanent Missions of
Bulgaria and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist
Republic to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General (A/46/273)

Issued

Projected date
of issuance

Note verbale dated 15 July 1991 from the
 Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the
 United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
 ((A/46/304-S/22796)

Issued

Letter dated 1 August 1991 from the
 Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of
 Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations
 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/336)

Issued

Letter dated 9 September 1991 from the
 Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the
 United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
 (A/46/451-S/23026)

Issued

Letter dated 12 September 1991 from the
 Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to
 the United Nations addressed to the
 Secretary-General (A/46/469)

Issued

**Exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of
 armed conflict and the taking of practical measures to
 prevent such exploitation (140)**

Note verbale dated 5 July 1991 from the
 Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of
 Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the
 Secretary-General (A/46/141)

Issued

III. DATE FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, ORDER AND APPROXIMATE DATES OF CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS

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. It is to be mentioned that the General Committee, at its 1st meeting, on 18 September 1991, decided to recommend that the forty-sixth session should

recess on 17 December 1991 and conclude on 14 September 1992. Under the circumstances, it appears advisable that the Sixth Committee should arrange its schedule of meetings in such a way that it will conclude its work not later than Wednesday, 27 November 1991.

6. Taking into account the pattern followed by the Committee in the order of consideration of items at recent sessions of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee may wish to consider, for the purpose of adopting its programme of work, the following timetable, drawn on the basis of previous programmes of work adopted by the Committee, which indicates approximate dates of consideration of agenda items referred to it.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Approximate dates of consideration</u>
Election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur and organization of work	20 and 25 September 1991
Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order (126)	25-26 September 1991
Consideration of the draft articles on most-favoured-nation clauses (134)	26 September 1991
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fourth session (129)	26-30 September 1991
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (131) 1/	30 September- 8 October 1991

1/ Under General Assembly decision 45/413 of 28 November 1990, the question of the rules of the conciliation of disputes between States should be examined as part of the programme of the United Nations Decade of International Law and in the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, as appropriate.

Approximate dates
of consideration

Item

Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangers or takes innocent human lives or jeopardizes fundamental freedoms and study of the underlying causes of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and which cause some people to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes:

10-22 October 1991

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) Convening, under the auspices of the United Nations, of an international conference to define terrorism and to differentiate it from the struggle of peoples for national liberation (125)

Exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict and the taking of practical measures to prevent such exploitation (140)

22-24 October 1991

Report of the Secretary-General on possible ways of assisting developing countries to attend meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (129)

25 October 1991

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session (128) 2/

28 October-
12 November 1991

2/ At its last session, the General Assembly recommended that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly commence on 28 October 1991. The Assembly also recommended the continuation of efforts to improve the ways in which the report of the Commission was considered in the Sixth Committee, with a view to providing effective guidance for the Commission in its work, and decided that the Sixth Committee, in structuring its debate on the report of the Commission at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, should continue to bear in mind the possibility of reserving time for informal exchanges of views on matters relating to the work of the Commission (resolution 45/41 of 28 November 1990).

<u>Item</u>	<u>Approximate dates of consideration</u>
United Nations Decade of International Law (127) 1/ 3/	13-15 November 1991
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (124)	15-18 November 1991
Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States (135) 4/	19 November 1991
Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto (130) 5/	20 November 1991
Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (133)	20-22 November 1991
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (132)	25-26 November 1991
Reserved	27 November 1991

3/ Under General Assembly resolution 45/40 of 28 November 1990, the consideration of this item in the Sixth Committee may include work in the framework of a Working Group (see para. 7 (a) below).

4/ Under General Assembly resolution 43/171 B of 9 December 1988, the consideration of the item in the Sixth Committee is to include work within the framework of a subcommittee (see para. 7 (c) below).

5/ Under General Assembly resolution 45/43 of 28 November 1990, the consideration of the item in the Sixth Committee is to include informal consultations (see para. 7 (b) below).

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES OR WORKING GROUPS AND HOLDING OF CONSULTATIONS

7. In connection with the establishment of subcommittees or working groups and the holding of consultations for the purpose of facilitating the work, it should be borne in mind that the General Assembly took the following decisions at its last session:

(a) As regards agenda item 127, the programme for the activities to be commenced during the first term (1990-1992) of the United Nations Decade of International Law designates the Sixth Committee, working primarily through the Working Group on the Decade, as the coordinating body of the programme (resolution 45/40 of 28 November 1990).

(b) With respect to agenda item 130, the General Assembly decided to resume informal consultations at its forty-sixth session to study the draft articles (on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier) and the draft optional protocols thereto, as well as the question of how to deal further with these draft instruments with a view to facilitating the reaching of a generally acceptable decision in the latter respect (resolution 45/43 of 28 November 1990).

(c) On agenda item 135, it is to be recalled that the General Assembly decided to continue and to complete at its forty-fifth session the task of identifying and clarifying the elements of good-neighbourliness and to begin the elaboration of a suitable international document on the development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States within the framework of a subcommittee on good-neighbourliness (resolution 43/171 B of 9 December 1988). At the forty-fifth session, the item was deferred to the forty-sixth session (decision 45/402 of 21 September 1990).

8. Since the conference services to be provided for meetings of working groups and subcommittees and for the holding of consultations are those allocated to the Sixth Committee, it is important that such meetings and consultations be held in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings of the Committee.

V. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. According 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 Main Committees allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditures by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. Under the circumstances, if Wednesday, 27 November 1991 is accepted as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see

para. 5 above), Wednesday, 20 November 1991, would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications.

VI. CONFERENCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

10. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold an average of seven plenary meetings per week; normally, morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

11. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Services Section through the Secretary of the Committee.
