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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. David **Mulet Lind** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. At its 52nd meeting, on 19 December 2019, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee,¹ adopted decision 74/537 on the revitalization of work of the Second Committee. In the decision, the Assembly decided that the Bureau of the Second Committee would convene informal dialogues to discuss the revitalization of the Committee's work in December 2019 and in the first months of 2020, and also decided that the Committee would take stock of the deliberations and, as appropriate, take action on any recommendations, for subsequent approval by the Assembly, to allow any change to come into effect ahead of the seventy-fifth session.

2. Accordingly, the Bureau convened four informal dialogues on the revitalization of the work of the Committee. The first two dialogues were held in person on 17 December 2019 and 14 February 2020, respectively, and the other two were held virtually, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, on 7 May and 25 June 2020, respectively.

II. Consideration of draft decision [A/C.2/74/L.76](#)

3. On 17 June, the Chair of the Committee, Cheikh Niang (Senegal), addressed a letter transmitting a zero draft decision prepared by the Bureau based on oral and written inputs received by the Bureau from members of the Second Committee on the revitalization of the work of the Committee.

4. On 15 July, the Chair of the Committee circulated a letter in which he submitted for consideration under silence procedure, in accordance with General Assembly

¹ See [A/74/389](#), draft decision I.



decisions 74/544 and 74/555, a draft decision submitted by the Bureau, entitled “Revitalization of the work of the Second Committee” ([A/C.2/74/L.76](#)).

5. The draft decision had no programme budget implications.

6. On 20 July, the Committee considered the draft decision adopted, in accordance with the process set out in decisions 74/544 and 74/555 (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Revitalization of the work of the Second Committee

The General Assembly,

Mindful of and without prejudice to the broader ongoing revitalization and alignment processes in the Assembly, other Main Committees and the Economic and Social Council,

Cognizant of the measures adopted by the Assembly to adjust its working methods in the light of the situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including its decisions 74/544 of 27 March 2020, 74/555 of 15 May 2020 and 74/557 of 29 May 2020:

(a) Recalls its resolution [73/341](#) of 12 September 2019 on the revitalization of its work and its decision 65/530 of 20 December 2010 on improving the working methods of the Second Committee;

(b) Takes note of conference room paper [A/C.2/74/CRP.7](#) on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee, prepared by the Bureau of the Committee at the seventy-fourth session;

(c) Reaffirms the importance of the full implementation of its resolutions on the revitalization of its work;

(d) Also reaffirms that the revitalization of the Second Committee aims to strengthen the work of the Committee, enhance international development and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹

(e) Agrees that the work of the Second Committee needs to be better aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² while recognizing that the purview of the Committee is broader than the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Commends the Bureau for its work, and invites the Bureau to prepare and organize the work of the Second Committee, building on improvements to working methods introduced at recent sessions, as outlined in the conference room paper;

(g) With regard to the general debate and the debates on individual agenda items of the Second Committee:

(i) Invites the Bureau to take measures to facilitate increased interaction among delegations and with the Secretariat officials presenting reports in the preparation of the programme of work for the session;

(ii) Decides that the Bureau should propose an annual theme for the general debate, taking into account the theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be decided after consultation with the wider membership;

(iii) Also decides that oral introductions of draft resolutions in plenary meetings shall be limited to two minutes; speakers are encouraged to explain concisely the relevance of the draft resolution to the 2030 Agenda, in particular,

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).

² Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

and the reason why the General Assembly should adopt a resolution on that topic;

(iv) Invites the Bureau to make proposals to streamline the debates on individual agenda items of the Committee through joint consideration of one or more agenda items, to be decided after consultation with the wider membership;

(v) Also invites the Bureau, when organizing substantive sessions and where possible, to utilize the remaining time of a concluded session for the immediate continuation of consideration of the following item in the programme of work;

(h) With regard to the panel discussions and side events of the Second Committee:

(i) Encourages the Bureau to select the themes of the panel discussions and side events, to be decided after consultation with the wider membership and with the support of the Secretariat, taking into account the themes of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Second Committee for any given session and current and emerging issues of interest;

(ii) Also encourages the Bureau to hold panel discussions and side events in a manner that adds value by enhancing informal, in-depth discussions and bringing together experts from various fields, without prejudice to the progress of the substantive work of the Committee;

(iii) Decides to restrict the number of panel discussions and side events to a maximum of three in order to avoid overloading the work of the Committee;

(iv) Emphasizes the importance of ensuring, *inter alia*, a variety of perspectives and stakeholders and appropriate geographic and gender balance in the selection of keynote speakers and panellists for panel discussions and side events;

(v) Encourages the Bureau to convene the side events, in consultation with the wider membership and with the support of the Secretariat, as early in the session as possible to ensure maximum participation and avoid overlapping with informal consultations and group coordination meetings;

(vi) Also encourages the Bureau to convene the joint meeting of the Committee with the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with the wider membership and with the support of the Secretariat, as early in the session as possible to ensure maximum participation and avoid overlapping with informal consultations and group coordination meetings;

(i) With regard to reporting to the Second Committee:

(i) Underlines the importance of the timely submission and issuance of reports as much in advance of the consideration of related agenda items as possible, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the reports are specific and contain evidence-based recommendations and empirical analysis; each report should highlight developments that have occurred since the adoption of the resolution mandating the report;

(ii) Requests the Secretary-General to focus the reports submitted to the Committee, *inter alia*, on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and their interlinkages and to include actionable recommendations;

(j) With regard to draft resolutions submitted to the Second Committee:

(i) Invites proposers of draft resolutions, in order to facilitate negotiations, to share the proposed drafts early in an editable format with tracked changes where possible, and with references to the sources of new language;

- (ii) Invites delegations proposing draft resolutions, where appropriate, to reflect the link of the resolutions with the 2030 Agenda in the title of the resolutions and to consider including provisions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the resolutions;
- (iii) Also invites delegations to ensure that all draft resolutions are streamlined, more concise, focused and action-oriented, including the requests for reports and the recommendations;
- (iv) In order to balance the number of resolutions adopted in odd years and in even years, decides that the biennial sub-item entitled “Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence” of the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence” and the biennial sub-items entitled “Women in development” and “Human resources development” of the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues” will next be included in the agenda of its seventy-seventh session;
- (v) Invites delegations to consider staggering the resolutions on education for sustainable development and on human resources development;
- (vi) Also invites delegations to consider renaming the resolution entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development” during its consideration at the seventy-fifth session;
- (vii) Decides that the subject matter of the resolution on an effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon will be addressed within the resolution on disaster risk reduction, and also decides to request the inclusion of a special section on this matter in future reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, recognizing that the resolution may be brought back in the future if deemed necessary;
- (viii) Invites delegations to consider the periodicity of the sub-item entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries” of the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”;
- (ix) Decides to consider the resolution on Harmony with Nature every other year;
- (k) Decides to continue to discuss and improve the working methods of the Second Committee in future sessions, and to focus the substantive work of the Committee around resolutions that will have, inter alia, the most impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development;
- (l) Requests the Bureau, in this regard, to continue to update conference room paper [A/C.2/74/CRP.7](#) on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee and to continue to facilitate and guide these efforts, including through open-ended consultations within the framework of the existing agenda item entitled “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”;
- (m) Decides to follow up on the implementation of the present decision at its seventy-fifth session.