



General Assembly

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Seventy-fifth session Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee will be issued in document [A/C.3/75/1](#). Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (see [A/75/100](#)).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, Assembly decision 74/519 on the programme of work of the Third Committee for the seventy-fifth session, the provisional agenda of the seventy-fifth session ([A/75/150](#)) and relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Committee, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services. The modalities on the arrangements for the work of the Committee at the seventy-fifth session have been revised pursuant to the proposal submitted by the Bureau taking into account the limitations and restrictions resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (see letter dated 8 September 2020 from the Chair-elect of the Committee for the seventy-fifth session posted on the e-deleGATE portal under “Third Committee Announcements”).

Question time and interactive dialogues

3. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee and pursuant to paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#) on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, immediately following the introduction of reports, interactive dialogues or a “question time” will be held with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General, special rapporteurs and other special mechanisms as part of the formal proceedings of the Committee. In accordance with the proposal submitted by the Bureau, the interactive dialogues of the seventy-fifth session will be held in an online format. Delegations are invited to participate actively in the dialogues with questions and unscripted comments.



General debate

4. Also pursuant to the proposal submitted by the Bureau, the general discussion of each agenda item or cluster of agenda items will be replaced by a single general debate to be held prior to the start of the interactive dialogues.

Statements by delegations

5. The list of speakers for the general debate of the Committee will be opened on Monday, 14 September 2020.

6. Statements made during the general debate will be limited to five minutes for individual delegations and to seven minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of delegations. Microphones will be switched off automatically after the allotted time. Delegations may make only one national statement during the debate. The statement may cover any or all items allocated to the Committee. 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.

7. 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.

List of documents

8. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note (to be issued as [A/C.3/75/L.1/Add.1](#)), which will contain a list of the documentation submitted under each agenda item expected to be allocated to the Committee.

Conference facilities and meeting arrangements

9. 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 General Assembly Hall with the exception of the first meeting of the Committee covering organizational matters, as well as the possible action meetings on 16 November, which are expected to be held in the combined Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3. The meetings of the Committee held in an online format will also be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., 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, it is proposed that rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly be waived with respect to the quorum needed to declare a meeting open.

Sponsorship of draft resolutions and proposals

10. The initiation and sponsorship of draft proposals will be undertaken electronically through the eSponsorship application without prejudice to the possibility offered to delegations of co-sponsoring a proposal at the time of the Committee’s action on the latter during in-person meetings. To maximize the efficiency of the Committee, however, all delegations wishing to co-sponsor a proposal are encouraged to do so electronically through the eSponsorship application rather than during the formal proceedings of the Committee. For a proposal

considered under silence procedure, delegations will have the opportunity of co-sponsoring it until its adoption at the time of the expiration of the procedure.

Introduction of draft resolutions

11. In line with efforts to further enhance the efficiency of the Committee, main sponsors of proposals are urged to limit the introduction of their proposals, which may be made in writing or solely at the time of their consideration by the Committee, to statements not exceeding three minutes. Main sponsors are requested not to make a formal introductory statement on a draft resolution upon its issuance as an “L” document, with the possible exception of introductory statements in relation to a new, non-recurrent draft resolution.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

12. In paragraph 4 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#), the Assembly decided that the item entitled “Report of the Economic and Social Council” should be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. Subsequently, it was clarified that, in implementing that decision, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Council that related to agenda items allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned, for final action by the Assembly (see [A/59/250/Add.1](#), para. 4).

Report of the Human Rights Council

13. In its resolution [65/281](#), entitled “Review of the Human Rights Council”, the General Assembly decided to continue its practice of allocating the item entitled “Report of the Human Rights Council” to the plenary of the Assembly and to the Third Committee, in accordance with its decision [65/503 A](#), with the understanding that the President of the Council will present the report in her or his capacity as President to the plenary of the Assembly and to the Committee and that the Committee will hold an interactive dialogue with the President of the Council following the presentation of the report of the Council to the Committee.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

14. Bearing in mind the number of meetings allocated to the Committee, a target date of 20 November 2020 has been set for the conclusion of its work. The Committee will, however, endeavour to conclude its work earlier, if possible.

Annex**Draft programme of work of the Third Committee***Date/time**Item/programme^a***Week of 28 September–2 October****Friday, 2 October**

10 a.m. (in-person)

Organizational matters

Election of officers

3 p.m.

No meeting**Week of 5–9 October****Monday, 5 October**

10 a.m. (in-person)

Opening of the general debate

3 p.m. (in-person)

General debate (*continued*)**Tuesday, 6 October**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (in-person)

General debate (*continued*)**Wednesday, 7 October**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (in-person)

General debate (*continued and concluded*)**Thursday, 8 October**

10 a.m. (online)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on:

Item 26**Social development****(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly****(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family****(c) Literacy for life: shaping future agendas**

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on:

Item 111**Crime prevention and criminal justice****Item 112****Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes****Item 113****International drug control**

3 p.m.

No meeting

Date/time

Item/programme^a**Friday, 9 October**

10 a.m. (online)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on:

Item 27 Advancement of women

3 p.m. (online)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on:

Item 68 Promotion and protection of the rights of children**(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children****(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children****Week of 12–16 October****Monday, 12 October**

10 a.m. (online)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on
(*continued*):**Item 68 Promotion and protection of the rights of children****(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children****(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children**

3 p.m. (online)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on:

Item 69 Rights of indigenous peoples**(a) Rights of indigenous peoples****(b) Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples****Tuesday, 13 October**

10 a.m. (online)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts on:

Item 72 Promotion and protection of human rights**(a) Implementation of human rights instruments****(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms****(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives****(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**

Date/time	Item/programme ^a
1 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals under the items: Social Development Crime prevention and criminal justice Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes International drug control
3 p.m. Wednesday, 14 October	No meeting
10 a.m. (online)	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (<i>continued</i>)
3 p.m. Thursday, 15 October	No meeting
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (online)	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 16 October	
10 a.m. (online)	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (<i>continued</i>)
3 p.m. Week of 19–23 October	No meeting
Monday, 19 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (online)	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (<i>continued</i>)
Tuesday, 20 October	
10 a.m. (online)	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (<i>continued</i>)
1 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals under the items: Advancement of women Promotion and protection of the rights of children Rights of indigenous peoples
3 p.m. Wednesday, 21 October	No meeting
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (online)	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (<i>continued</i>)

Date/time

Item/programme^a**Thursday, 22 October**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (online)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)**Friday, 23 October**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (online)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)**Week of 26–30 October****Monday, 26 October**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (online)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)**Tuesday, 27 October**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (online)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)**Wednesday, 28 October**

10 a.m. (online)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)

3 p.m.

No meeting**Thursday, 29 October**

10 a.m. (online)

Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*concluded*)

3 p.m.

No meeting**Friday, 30 October**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

No meeting

1 p.m.

Deadline for submission of proposals under item:

Promotion and protection of human rights

2 p.m. (online)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on:

Item 67**Report of the Human Rights Council**

6 p.m.

Deadline for submission of proposals under item:

Report of the Human Rights Council

Week of 2–6 November**Monday, 2 November**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (online)

Item 70

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on:

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance****(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action****Item 71****Right of peoples to self-determination****Tuesday, 3 November**

10 a.m. (online)

Item 63

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue on:

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

3 p.m.

No meeting**Wednesday, 4 November**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

No meeting

1 p.m.

Deadline for submission of proposals under items:

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance****Right of peoples to self-determination****Thursday, 5 November**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

No meeting**Friday, 6 November**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

No meeting**Week of 9–13 November****Monday, 9 November****No meeting****Tuesday, 10 November****No meeting**

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Item/programme^a</i>
Wednesday, 11 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	No meeting
1 p.m.	Deadline for submission of revised draft proposals and amendments
Thursday, 12 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	No meeting
Friday, 13 November	
10 a.m. (in-person)	Action on proposals
3 p.m.	No meeting
Week of 16–20 November	
Monday, 16 November	
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (in-person)	Action on proposals (as required)
Tuesday, 17 November	
10 a.m. (in-person)	Action on proposals
3 p.m.	No meeting
Wednesday, 18 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (in-person)	Action on proposals
Thursday, 19 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (in-person)	Action on proposals
Friday, 20 November	
10 a.m. (in-person)	Action on proposals (as required)
3 p.m. (in-person)	Item 126 Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly
	Item 142^b Programme planning
	Action on outstanding proposals
	Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee

^a Item of the provisional agenda (A/75/150).

^b This item is to be allocated to all the Main Committees to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.