



General Assembly

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Seventy-fifth session Second Committee

Organization of work of the Second Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Second Committee are listed in the note by the Secretariat ([A/C.2/75/1](#)). Background information on those items can be found in the annotations to the agenda ([A/75/100](#) and [A/75/100/Add.1](#)).

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 74/538 on the programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly, by which the Assembly invited the Bureau of the Second Committee to take into account the provisional timetable of the Committee as contained in conference room paper [A/C.2/74/CRP.1](#), the provisional agenda of the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly ([A/75/150](#)) and the availability of documentation. The number of meetings suggested for the general discussion of the agenda items allocated to the Second Committee is based on past experience.

3. The modalities on the arrangements for the work of the Second Committee are specific to the seventy-fifth session only and have been prepared pursuant to the proposals submitted by the Bureau, in consultation with the membership of the Committee, taking into account the limitations and restrictions resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (see letters dated 11 August and 11 and 25 September 2020 from the Chair of the Committee for the seventy-fifth session posted on the e-deleGATE portal and conference room paper [A/C.2/75/CRP.2](#) outlining arrangements for business continuity of the Second Committee at the seventy-fifth session). The need for a flexible approach that would allow the Bureau to make adjustments during the session, necessitated by possible additional limitations and restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and in consultation with the membership of the Committee, remains.



List of documents

4. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note ([A/C.2/75/L.1/Add.1](#)), which lists the documentation submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Second Committee.

General debate

5. In accordance with General Assembly decision 74/537 B on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee and following consultations with the membership of the Committee, the Bureau proposed the theme “Building back better after COVID-19: ensuring a more equitable global economy, inclusive societies and sustainable recovery” for the general debate, taking into account the theme agreed by the General Assembly for the 2021 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

6. Under the special circumstances prevailing at the seventy-fifth session, the general debate will be held in person, with each delegation deciding whether it wishes to deliver its statements in person or by pre-recorded or live video message displayed in the room or submit its statement in writing, which would be circulated and posted on e-deleGATE and would also be reflected in an annex to the official reports of the Committee. Delegations may make only one national statement during the debate. The statement may cover any or all items allocated to the Committee.

General discussions of agenda items, introduction of reports and question time

7. The general discussions of agenda items will be conducted in online informal meetings. Delegations may also opt to participate in the general discussions through the circulation of written statements to be posted in the Second Committee Place module on e-deleGATE.

8. The introductions of the reports of the Secretary-General will be made through brief oral statements of no more than six minutes at the online meeting at which the item is considered. Some flexibility with regard to the time limit may be exercised when two or more reports are introduced in one statement. Immediately following the introduction of reports, and in accordance with the practice of the Main Committees, delegations will be invited to comment or pose questions to the presenters on the reports introduced. Delegations are invited to participate actively in the dialogues with questions and unscripted comments.

Statements by delegations

9. The lists of speakers for the general debate and the general discussions of individual agenda items opened in the week of 21 September 2020. For planning purposes, inscriptions should be submitted by 30 September 2020. Statements in the general debate should be limited to no more than nine minutes for statements made on behalf of groups and six minutes for national statements. Statements in the general discussions of items should be limited to no more than six minutes for statements made on behalf of groups and four minutes for national statements. For joint consideration of agenda items, the time limits of seven minutes and five minutes, respectively, would be maintained. The lists of speakers for a given meeting will be prepared on the basis of these time limits and will be strictly implemented, including, as necessary, by switching off microphones automatically after the allotted time.

10. Introduction of draft proposals should be made through written statements, on an exceptional basis, and circulated through the Second Committee Place module on e-deleGATE.

11. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly and the practice of the Committee, 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 number of interventions in exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item, with the first intervention limited to five minutes and the second, if any, to three minutes.

12. Also in accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly and the practice of the Committee, explanations of vote should be limited to five minutes, and points of order should be limited to three minutes.

Conference facilities and meeting arrangements

13. Unless otherwise specified, in-person meetings of the Second Committee will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the combined Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3. Likewise, unless otherwise specified in advance, the online meetings of the Committee will also be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (with remote interpretation provided in two-hour blocks). The General Assembly has stressed that punctuality is of the utmost importance in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations. In this regard, rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly requiring the presence of at least one quarter of the members of the Committee to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed has been waived by the Assembly.

Informal consultations

14. Informal consultations (without interpretation or other services) on draft proposals will be conducted by the appointed facilitators through an online platform. The Bureau will coordinate a comprehensive calendar of informal consultations, within regular meeting hours, while avoiding parallel negotiations as far as possible.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

15. Pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of section D of the annex to General Assembly resolution [58/316](#), the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" should be considered in its entirety in plenary; subsequently, it was clarified by the General Committee that the relevant parts of chapter I of the report that fall under agenda items already 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).

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

16. Bearing in mind the number of meetings available to the Second Committee, a target date of 25 November 2020 has been set for the conclusion of its work.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee¹

Monday, 14 September 2020

3 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Briefing

Friday, 2 October 2020

10 a.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Organizational meeting

Week of 5–9 October 2020

Monday, 5 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Adoption of organizational decisions

Keynote address

Opening of the general debate

3–6 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Item 25: Operational activities for development:

- (a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system**
- (b) South-South cooperation for development**

Tuesday, 6 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Item 25: Operational activities for development and sub-items (a) and (b)
(*concluded*)

3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

General debate (*continued*)

Wednesday, 7 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. (*online informal meetings*)

Joint consideration of:

Item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions:

- (a) International trade and development**
- (b) International financial system and development**
- (c) External debt sustainability and development**

¹ The numbers of the agenda items as reflected in the draft programme of work correspond to the items of the agenda of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly ([A/75/251](#)).

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

- (e) **Promoting investments for sustainable development**

Item 18: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Thursday, 8 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

General debate (*continued*)

3–6 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Item 23: Groups of countries in special situations:

- (a) **Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**
- (b) **Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries**

Friday, 9 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Joint consideration of:

Item 16: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

Item 22: Globalization and interdependence:

- (a) **Globalization and interdependence**
- (b) **International migration and development**

3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

General debate (*concluded*)

Week of 12–16 October 2020

Monday, 12 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. (*online informal meetings*)

Item 19: Sustainable development:

- (a) **Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21**
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**
- (c) **Disaster risk reduction**

- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind**
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**
- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity**
- (g) **Harmony with Nature**
- (h) **Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**
- (i) **Combating sand and dust storms**

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 17 and sub-items (a) and (b), and item 23 and sub-items (a) and (b)

Tuesday, 13 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Item 19: Sustainable development and sub-items (a) to (i) (*concluded*)

3–6 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Joint consideration of:

Item 20: Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

- (a) **Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)**
- (b) **Industrial development cooperation**
- (c) **Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 16 and item 22 and sub-items (a) and (b)

Wednesday, 14 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Joint consideration of:

Item 20: Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues, and sub-items (a) to (c)

3–6 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Joint meeting with the Economic and Social Council²

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items (c) to (e) of item 17, and item 18

² Concept note will be made available on the website of the Committee (www.un.org/en/ga/second/75/events.shtml)

Thursday, 15 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Item 21: Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

3–6 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Side event²

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 20 and item 25 and sub-items (a) and (b)

Friday, 16 October

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. (*online informal meetings*)

Item 26: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 19 and sub-items (a) to (e), and item 24 and sub-items (a) to (c)

Week of 19–23 October 2020**Monday, 19 October**

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Dialogue with the regional commissions

3–6 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Item 62: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 21

Tuesday, 20 October

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 26

Wednesday, 21 October

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals under sub-items (f) to (i) of item 19, and item 62

Week of 9–13 November 2020**Wednesday, 11 November**

3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*) (*if needed*)

Action on draft proposals³

³ Meetings of the Committee to hear introduction of and/or take action on draft proposals are scheduled on a preliminary basis and will be convened and/or rescheduled depending on availability of documentation.

Week of 16–20 November 2020

Tuesday, 17 November

3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*) (*if needed*)

Action on draft proposals³

3 p.m.: deadline for submission of final draft proposals

Wednesday, 18 November

3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*) (*if needed*)

Action on draft proposals³

Week of 23–27 November 2020

Monday, 23 November

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*online informal meeting*)

Item 126: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Item 142: Programme planning

Tuesday, 24 November

10 a.m.–1 p.m. (*in-person plenary meeting*)

Action on draft proposals

Wednesday, 25 November

10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. (*in-person plenary meetings*)

Action on draft proposals

Conclusion of the work of the Second Committee
