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Agenda item 17

Macroeconomic policy questions

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled:

“Macroeconomic policy questions:

“(a) International trade and development;

“(b) International financial system and development;

“(c) External debt sustainability and development;

“(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.”

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 5 October 2020, the Committee, taking into account the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, limitations on meetings held on United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19, as well as available technological and procedural solutions, and bearing in mind the conference room paper of the Bureau of the Second Committee on the work of the Committee during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly,¹ approved the working arrangements of the Committee for the seventy-fifth session as set out in the organization of work of the Committee.²

3. The Committee convened virtual informal meetings on 7 October 2020 to hear introductory statements and hold a general discussion on the item jointly with agenda

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in six parts, under the symbols [A/75/455](#), [A/75/455/Add.1](#), [A/75/455/Add.2](#), [A/75/455/Add.3](#), [A/75/455/Add.4](#) and [A/75/455/Add.5](#).

¹ Available at www.un.org/en/ga/second/75/bureau-paper.pdf.

² See [A/C.2/75/L.1](#).



item 18, “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development”. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings, as well as written statements submitted under the item, are reflected in the annex to the present document. Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 1st to 4th meetings, on 5, 6, 8 and 9 October 2020.³ Action on the item was taken at the 5th and 6th meetings, on 18 and 24 November 2020.⁴

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 17

Macroeconomic policy questions

No documents were submitted under this item.

Item 17 (a)

International trade and development

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-ninth executive session, Geneva, 5–7 February and 6 April 2020 ([A/75/15 \(Part I\)](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on international trade and development ([A/75/225](#))

Item 17 (b)

International financial system and development

Report of the Secretary-General on the international financial system and development ([A/75/268](#))

Item 17 (c)

External debt sustainability and development

Report of the Secretary-General on external debt sustainability and development ([A/75/281](#))

Item 17 (d)

Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development

No documents were submitted under this sub-item.⁵

Item 17 (e)

Promoting investments for sustainable development

No documents were submitted under this sub-item.⁶

³ See [A/C.2/75/SR.1](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.2](#), [A/C.2/75/SR.3](#) and [A/C.2/75/SR.4](#).

⁴ See [A/C.2/75/SR.5](#) and [A/C.2/75/SR.6](#).

⁵ Pursuant to resolution [74/206](#), dedicated sections on the topic have been prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals Pulse Report (available at <https://sdgpulse.unctad.org/>) and the *Trade and Development Report* (available at <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/Publications/TradeandDevelopmentReport.aspx>).

⁶ Pursuant to resolution [74/199](#), a dedicated section on the topic has been prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as part of the *World Investment Report* (available at https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/wir2020_en.pdf).

Annex

General discussion

1. In accordance with its agreed organization of work (*A/C.2/75/L.1*), the Second Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 17 jointly with agenda item 18, “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development”, in informal virtual meetings on 7 October 2020, during which it heard the recorded introductory statement by the President of the Trade and Development Board (Argentina) under item 17 (a), and introductory statements by the Head of Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy in the Division on International Trade and Commodities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), under item 17 (a); the Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs under item 17 (b); the Chief of the Debt and Development Finance Branch in the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD, under item 17 (c), followed by a statement by the Head of the Investment Policies Branch in the Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD, under item 17 (e).
2. At the informal virtual meeting held in the morning of 7 October, statements were made by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Malawi (on behalf of the least developed countries), Kazakhstan (on behalf of the landlocked developing countries), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Belize (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Sierra Leone, Belarus, Honduras, Kenya, India, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bangladesh.
3. In the subsequent informal meeting held in the afternoon of 7 October, statements were made by the representatives of China, Cuba, Algeria, Maldives, Egypt, Nicaragua, Thailand, Iraq, the Russian Federation, El Salvador, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ukraine, Morocco, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Costa Rica and Ecuador, as well as by the observer for the Holy See, and by the representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.
4. Statements delivered under the item, including written statements submitted under the item that were provided to the Secretariat, are available in the Second Committee Place of e-deleGATE and the eStatements section of the *Journal of the United Nations* online.¹

¹ See <https://delegate.un.int/dgacm/delegate.nsf/xpPlaceC2.xsp>; see also <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/8d9b094b-a9fd-ea11-9116-0050569e8b67/2020-10-07> and <https://journal.un.org/en/meeting/officials/8f9b094b-a9fd-ea11-9116-0050569e8b67/2020-10-07>.