



General Assembly

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Agenda item 126

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diamane **Diome** (Senegal)

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 “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly” and to allocate it to all the Main Committees for the purpose of discussing their working methods, as well as considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 5 October 2020, the Second 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 Second Committee considered the item at its 6th meeting, on 24 November 2020. An account of the Committee’s discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary record.³

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

² See [A/C.2/75/L.1](#).

³ See [A/C.2/75/SR.6](#).



II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft decision contained in document [A/C.2/75/L.58](#)

4. At its 6th meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly” ([A/C.2/75/L.58](#)), as submitted by the Bureau of the Committee.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision on its draft programme of work for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, as contained in document [A/C.2/75/L.58](#), and recommended its adoption by the Assembly (see para. 9, draft decision I).

7. Following the adoption of the decision, a statement was made by the representative of Canada (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the European Union and its member States).⁴

B. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

8. At its 6th meeting, on 24 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee adopted a decision on the revitalization of its work (see para. 9, draft decision II).⁴

⁴ Ibid.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly:

(a) Approves, subject to any subsequent decision by the Assembly, the draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly as set out below;

(b) Invites the Bureau of the Second Committee at the seventy-sixth session, in preparing the draft programme of work and timetable of the Committee for the seventy-sixth session, to take into account the provisional programme of work and timetable of the Committee as contained in document [A/C.2/75/CRP.3](#).

Draft programme of work¹

1. Information and communications technologies for sustainable development.
2. Macroeconomic policy questions:
 - (a) International trade and development;
 - (b) International financial system and development;
 - (c) External debt sustainability and development;
 - (d) Commodities;
 - (e) Financial inclusion for sustainable development;
 - (f) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development;
 - (g) Promoting investments for sustainable development.
3. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development.
4. 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;

¹ The final list of items and sub-items to be considered will be based on the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly.

- (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) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;
 - (h) Education for sustainable development;
 - (i) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
 - (j) Combating sand and dust storms;
 - (k) Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development.
5. Globalization and interdependence:
- (a) Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development;
 - (b) Culture and sustainable development;
 - (c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries.
6. 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.
7. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:
- (a) Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027);
 - (b) Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
8. Operational activities for development:
- (a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
 - (b) South-South cooperation for development.
9. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition:
- (a) Agriculture development, food security and nutrition;
 - (b) Natural plant fibres and sustainable development.
10. Towards global partnerships.
11. 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.

Draft decision II
Revitalization of the work of the Second Committee

The General Assembly:

(a) Recalls its resolutions [73/341](#) of 12 September 2019 and [74/303](#) of 4 September 2020 and its decision 74/537 B of 11 August 2020;

(b) Decides that the Bureau of the Second Committee will convene informal dialogues to discuss the revitalization of the work of the Committee in December 2020 and in the first months of 2021;

(c) Also decides that the Second Committee will convene a plenary meeting following those dialogues to take stock of the deliberations and, as appropriate, take action on any recommendations, for subsequent approval by the General Assembly, to allow any change to come into effect ahead of the seventy-sixth session.
