



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 October 2024

Original: English

Seventy-ninth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 140
Programme planning

Letter dated 25 October 2024 from the Chair of the Second Committee addressed to the Chair of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit herewith a summary of the general discussion on agenda item 140, “Programme planning”, held during an informal meeting of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, on Friday, 25 October 2024 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the summary could be taken into consideration by the Fifth Committee during its deliberations.

(Signed) Muhammad Abdul **Muhith**
Chair
Second Committee



Annex

Summary of the Chair

1. In accordance with a decision taken at its organizational meeting on 3 October 2024, the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) held an informal meeting on 25 October 2024 on agenda item 140, “Programme planning”, in order to hear the comments of Member States on programmes 10, Trade and development, 11, Environment and 17, Economic development in Europe.
 2. The meeting was held pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution [78/244](#), in which the Assembly reiterated that, whenever the Committee for Programme and Coordination could not provide conclusions and recommendations on a given subprogramme or programme of the proposed programme budget, the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly responsible for those mandates would consider the said subprogramme or programme at the very start of its session in order to provide any conclusions and recommendations to the Fifth Committee, at the earliest opportunity, and no later than four weeks after the start of the session, for timely consideration by the Fifth Committee.
 3. Statements were made by eight delegations during the discussion.
 4. All delegations emphasized the important role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. Many delegations stated that they wished to avoid duplicating or replacing the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in consideration of the agenda item. Most delegations recommended that the Second Committee approve the proposed programmes and forward them to the Fifth Committee, while restating that programme planning was within the purview of the Fifth Committee. Taking on this responsibility would imply taking on a role that was not intended for the Second Committee and would deviate from the Second Committee’s substantive work.
 5. Most delegations recommended that programmes 10, Trade and development; 11, Environment; and 17, Economic development in Europe, be recommended to the Fifth Committee without any substantive comments on either programme. These delegations expressed support for these programmes, as they addressed the concerns of many developing countries facing record high levels of debt and other financial and sustainable development challenges. Implementing programmes 10, 11 and 17 would support these countries in their efforts to have more equity in the global economy. These delegations stated that the three programmes should thus be recommended and forwarded to the Fifth Committee for its consideration.
 6. One delegation expressed its willingness to enter into a substantive discussion within the Second Committee on programmes 10, 11 and 17 if such a discussion were to be organized.
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