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Agenda item 121

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Robin **de Vogel** (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2024, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-ninth 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 and taking action on their respective provisional programmes of work.

2. The Third Committee considered and took action on the item at its 57th meeting, on 21 November 2024. An account of the Committee’s consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary record.¹

II. Consideration

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#)

3. At its 57th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Working methods of the Third Committee” ([A/C.3/79/L.67](#)), submitted by Cameroon (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Belarus, China, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

4. At the same meeting, Lebanon and Malaysia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

¹ [A/C.3/79/SR.57](#).



5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the Group of African States) made a statement and orally revised operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#).

Action on the oral amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#), as orally revised

6. At the 57th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of El Salvador (also on behalf of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru) made a statement and orally proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 13 of draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#), as orally revised.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the oral amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#), as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 87 to 80, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Against:

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Fiji, Haiti, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu.

8. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Côte d'Ivoire.

9. Also at the 57th meeting, statements were made on a point of order by the representatives of Mexico, Colombia and El Salvador.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Uganda made a statement.

11. Also at the same meeting, statements before the vote were made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Colombia, and statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Burundi (on behalf of the Group of African States), Egypt, Cameroon, Uganda, Mali, Algeria and Nigeria.

12. After the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Hungary (on behalf of the European Union) and Bolivia (Plurinational State of), and a statement was made by the representative of Peru (also on behalf of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Paraguay).

Separate vote on operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#), as orally revised

13. At the 57th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of the Republic of Korea (also on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand) made a statement and requested a separate vote on operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#), as orally revised.

14. At the same meeting, operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#), as orally revised, was retained by a recorded vote of 103 to 69, with 7 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Myanmar, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu.

15. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Rwanda, Eritrea, Egypt, Ghana, Cameroon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Djibouti, the Sudan, the Russian Federation, the United Republic of Tanzania, China, Mali, Nigeria and Burundi, and statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), Peru, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, Liechtenstein (also on behalf of Norway, Switzerland and Iceland), Indonesia and Paraguay.

16. Also at the same meeting, statements were made on a point of order by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Egypt.

17. Also at the 57th meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of Peru made a statement on a point of order, to which the Chair (Burundi) responded.

19. Also at the same meeting, statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Belarus and Mexico.

Action on draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#), as a whole, as orally revised

20. At its 57th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/79/L.67](#), as orally revised (see para. 24).

21. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, El Salvador, Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), Singapore, the United States of America, South Africa, Switzerland (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), Mexico, Peru, Egypt, New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia, Canada and the Republic of Korea) and Tunisia, as well as the observer for the Holy See.

B. Draft decision [A/C.3/79/L.75](#)

22. At its 57th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Draft programme of work of the Third Committee for the eightieth session of the General Assembly” ([A/C.3/79/L.75](#)), submitted by the Chair (Burundi).

23. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.3/79/L.75](#) (see para. 25).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

24. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Working methods of the Third Committee

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the role and authority of the General Assembly as a principal organ of the United Nations and the importance of its effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its functions under the Charter,

Reaffirming the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which continue to guide its work,

Recalling its resolution [60/251](#) of 15 March 2006, in which it established the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, and recognizing the work of the Council,

Recalling also its resolution [77/335](#) of 1 September 2023 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, and noting that in the resolution, the Assembly invited each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods, as appropriate,

Noting the first informal meeting of the Third Committee on working methods, held on 2 May 2024, in line with resolution [77/335](#),

Recalling the Third Committee as the Main Committee of the General Assembly in charge of social, humanitarian and cultural issues, and mindful that the Committee is also responsible for the agenda items assigned to it by the General Assembly,

Recalling also its resolutions [45/175](#) of 18 December 1990 on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee and [58/316](#) of 1 July 2004 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the practice of interactive dialogues and presentations with special procedure mandate holders, the Chairs of treaty bodies, United Nations representatives and other mechanisms and experts reporting to the Third Committee,

Concerned by the significant increase in the workload of the Third Committee, including the number of resolutions as well as interactive dialogues, which have almost tripled over the past 15 years,

Stressing the need to review the working methods of the Third Committee in a manner that would improve the quality of its discussions and the impact of its deliberations, as well as its efficiency, with suggestions on the streamlining and rationalization of its work, where appropriate, and in order to achieve a manageable workload for the Committee and ensure the high quality of its deliberations, without compromising its substance,

Welcoming efforts to increase interactions between the Third Committee and the Human Rights Council, including the practice of the President of the Human Rights Council sharing summaries of the most recent sessions of the Council,

1. *Decides* to continue the practice of the Third Committee with respect to limiting the time allocated for general discussion and interactive dialogues, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Bureau of the Third Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to provide options regarding ways to improve the time efficiency of interactive dialogues and presentations, for further consideration and decision by Member States;

3. *Also requests* the Bureau of the Third Committee to address the increasing number of interactive dialogues with the Committee in consultation with the Bureau of the Human Rights Council, as well as by holding inclusive and transparent consultations with Member States, and, in this regard, to coordinate on the schedule of interactive dialogues with special procedure mandate holders, Chairs of treaty bodies, experts and other mechanisms in the Committee, with a view to mutually deciding on a road map aimed at developing a programme to progressively reduce the interactive dialogues to a manageable number at each annual session, including by considering:

(a) Establishing a recommended ceiling capacity of interactive dialogues at each annual session;

(b) Scheduling, including through rotation, of interactive dialogues at each session, while ensuring balance on substance, and without compromise to the quality of the work of the Third Committee;

(c) Presenting the road map at the eightieth session of the General Assembly, with targets to effect its implementation by the eighty-fourth session of the Assembly, for consideration and approval by Member States;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the positive impact of the combined briefings on the management of time, demonstrating linkages between the mandates, and on enhancing the quality and the efficiency of the work of the Third Committee at previous sessions, and decides, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 3 of the present resolution, that interactive dialogues, where feasible, may be combined, including on a regional basis;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have already heeded the call to biennialize and triennialize resolutions submitted to the Third Committee, and calls upon Member States to further their efforts in this regard, bearing in mind that there should be no automaticity in requesting reports of the Secretary-General;

6. *Encourages* the main sponsors of Third Committee resolutions to consider streamlining resolutions, focusing on action-oriented operative paragraphs and limiting requests for reports that duplicate reporting requirements from the Human Rights Council, inter alia, by considering requesting consolidated reports;

7. *Encourages* Member States to streamline requests for interactive dialogues with the Third Committee, from both the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;

8. *Requests* to continue to circulate, ahead of the session, the provisional list of special procedure mandate holders, Chairs of treaty bodies and other experts scheduled to make presentations, as well as the programme of work, for the consideration of Member States;

9. *Recalls* its resolution [47/202](#) B of 22 December 1992 on the pattern of conferences, and urges the authors of reports, special procedure mandate holders, Chairs of treaty bodies, experts and other mechanisms to submit their reports for consideration by the General Assembly in a timely manner in order to comply with that resolution, including to allow for the availability of the reports in all official languages;

10. *Urges* the Secretariat to ensure that all reports are made available to Member States online in a timely manner prior to the consideration of the agenda item under which those reports are scheduled to be discussed, according to the programme of work;

11. *Requests* the secretariat of the Third Committee, in line with previous practice, to continue to provide Member States with regular updates on the status of reports submitted for consideration during the session, including regarding reasons for delayed publication;

12. *Welcomes* the practice of preparing an informal paper on the working methods, lessons learned and best practices of the Third Committee, and encourages the Bureau of the Committee to continue to prepare, in consultation with Member States, updates to the informal paper;

13. *Decides* that, at its eighty-sixth session, in 2031, the Third Committee should further review, as appropriate, its methods of work.

25. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Draft programme of work of the Third Committee for the eightieth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly approves, subject to any subsequent decision by the Assembly, the draft programme of work of the Third Committee for the eightieth session of the Assembly as set out below. The Assembly further invites the Bureau of the Third Committee at the eightieth session, in preparing the draft programme of work and timetable of the Committee for the eightieth session, to take into account the draft provisional programme of work and timetable of the Committee as contained in document A/C.3/79/CRP.2.

Draft programme of work

Item 1. 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.

Item 2. Crime prevention and criminal justice.

Item 3. Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

Item 4. Advancement of women:

- (a) Advancement of women;
- (b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

Item 5. Promotion and protection of the rights of children.

Item 6. 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.

Item 7. 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.

- Item 8. 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 9. Right of peoples to self-determination.
 - Item 10. Report of the Human Rights Council.
 - Item 11. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions.
 - Item 12. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
 - Item 13. Programme planning.
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