



General Assembly

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**Sixty-third session
Third Committee**

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee will be issued in document A/C.3/63/1. Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (see A/63/100 and 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 62/535 on the programme of work of the Third Committee for the sixty-third session, the provisional agenda of the sixty-third session (A/63/150 and Corr.1), relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee, the availability of documentation and past experience in the utilization of conference services.

Question time and interactive dialogues and debates

3. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee and pursuant to paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, immediately following the introduction of reports by executive heads and senior members of the Secretariat at the beginning of each debate, interactive debates and “question time” will be held with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General, special rapporteurs and other special mechanisms as part of the formal proceedings of the Committee. Delegations are invited to participate actively in these dialogues with questions and unscripted comments. The general discussion under each agenda item or cluster of agenda items is to follow the “question time” with senior officials of the United Nations.

Statements

4. The list of speakers for the general discussion on agenda items allocated to the Third Committee will be opened on Wednesday, 24 September 2008.

5. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee, statements made during the general discussion under each agenda item or cluster of agenda items will be limited to 7 minutes, and to 15 minutes for statements made on behalf of a group



of delegations. Statements of Secretariat officials will be limited to 7 minutes, with the exception of oral reports.

6. Under item 67 of the provisional agenda, "Promotion and protection of human rights", delegations may make one statement under sub-item (a) and one statement under sub-item (d), which are to be discussed sequentially. Under sub-items (b), (c) and (e), which are to be considered jointly, delegations may make two separate statements, but they should not make two statements on any one of those sub-items.

7. Under items 65, "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" and 66, "Right of peoples to self-determination", which are to be discussed jointly, delegations may also make two separate statements.

8. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly, 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 first statement should be limited to 5 minutes and the second, if any, to 3 minutes.

List of documents

9. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note (A/C.3/63/L.1/Add.1), which lists the documentation submitted under each of the agenda items expected to be allocated to the Third Committee.

Conference facilities and meetings arrangements

10. Unless otherwise specified, official meetings of the Committee will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. The General Assembly has stressed that a punctual start of meetings is critical to the efficient utilization of services allocated to the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice, it is proposed that rule 108 of the Committee's rules of procedure be waived with respect to the quorum to declare a meeting open.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

11. In paragraph 4 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the Assembly decided that the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" should be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. Subsequently it was clarified that, in implementing that decision, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council that relate to agenda items allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned (see A/59/250/Add.1 and A/C.3/59/1/Add.2).

Report of the Human Rights Council

12. Bearing in mind rule 97 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, should the Assembly decide to allocate item 61 of its provisional agenda, "Report of the Human Rights Council", to the Third Committee, the Committee would consider the item on 31 October.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

13. Bearing in mind the number of meetings allocated to the Third Committee, a target date of 25 November has been set for the conclusion of its work. The Committee will, however, endeavour to conclude its work earlier, if possible.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Third Committee

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Item/programme^a</i>
Week of 6-10 October	
Monday, 6 October	
10 a.m.	Organizational matters
	Item 122 Programme planning
	Item 58 Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	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, disabled persons and the family
	(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing
	(d) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all
	(e) Review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (proposed sub-item)^b
1 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 58
3 p.m.	Item 58 General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Tuesday, 7 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 58 General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 8 October	
10 a.m.	Item 58 General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
1 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals on item 58
Thursday, 9 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 99 Crime prevention and criminal justice
	Item 100 International drug control
1 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on items 99 and 100

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Item/programme^a</i>
3 p.m.	Items 99 and 100 General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 10 October	
10 a.m.	Items 99 and 100 General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
1 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals on items 99 and 100
Week of 13-17 October	
Monday, 13 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of: Item 59 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
1 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 59
3 p.m.	Item 59 General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Tuesday, 14 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 59 General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 15 October	
10 a.m.	Item 59 General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
1 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals on item 59
3 p.m.	Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of: Item 63 Promotion and protection of the rights of children (a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children (b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 63
Thursday, 16 October	
10 a.m.	Item 63 General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
3 p.m.	Item 63 Action on proposals, followed by general discussion (<i>continued</i>)

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Item/programme^a</i>
Friday, 17 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 63 General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals on item 63
Week of 20-24 October	
Monday, 20 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 64 Indigenous issues
	(a) Indigenous issues
	(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
1 p.m.	Closure of list of speakers on item 64
3 p.m.	Item 64 General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals on item 64
Tuesday, 21 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 67 Promotion and protection of human rights
	(a) Implementation of human rights instruments , followed by introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 67 (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
1 p.m.	Closure of list of speakers on items 67 (a) and 67 (d)
3 p.m.	Item 67 (d) General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals on items 67 (a) and 67 (d)
Wednesday, 22 October	
10 a.m.	Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Date/time	Item/programme ^a
	<p>Item 67 Promotion and protection of human rights</p> <p> (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms</p> <p> (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives</p> <p> (e) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p>
1 p.m.	Closure of list of speakers on items 67 (b), (c) and (e)
3 p.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts
Thursday, 23 October	
10 a.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts
3 p.m.	Deadline for action on proposals under items 58, 59, 63, 99 and 100. Action on draft proposals, followed by dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts
Friday, 24 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts
Week of 27-31 October	
Monday, 27 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts
Tuesday, 28 October	
10 a.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts, followed by general discussion (<i>resumed</i>)
3 p.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 29 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 30 October	
10 a.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
3 p.m.	Items 67 (b), (c) and (e) , Action on draft proposals, followed by general discussion (<i>concluded</i>)

Date/time	Item/programme ^a	
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 67 (b), (c) and (e)
Friday, 31 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 61	Report of the Human Rights Council
1 p.m.		Closure of list of speakers on item 61
Week of 3-7 November		
Monday, 3 November		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 65	Elimination of racism and racial discrimination
		(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
		(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
	Item 66	Right of peoples to self-determination
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 65 and 66
3 p.m.	Items 65 and 66	General discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Tuesday, 4 November		
10 a.m.	Items 65 and 66	General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 65 and 66
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 42	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 42
Wednesday, 5 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 42	General discussion (<i>concluded</i>)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 42
Thursday, 6 November		
10 a.m.		Action on proposals

Date/time

Item/programme^a**Week of 10-14 November****Wednesday, 12 November**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Action on proposals

Thursday, 13 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Action on proposals

Week of 17-21 November**Tuesday, 18 November**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Action on proposals

Thursday, 20 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Action on proposals

Week of 24-28 November**Monday, 24 November**

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Action on proposals

Tuesday, 25 November

10 a.m. **Item 113 Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly^c**
 Action on outstanding proposals
 Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee

^a Item of the provisional agenda (A/63/150 and Corr.1).

^b See A/63/142.

^c The agenda item is to be allocated to the Third Committee for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on the tentative programme of work of the Committee for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.