



General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chair

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document [A/C.4/68/1](#). Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-eighth session ([A/68/100](#) and Add.1).¹
2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls upon each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.
3. The General Assembly decided that the sixty-eighth session should recess on Tuesday, 17 December 2013, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Thursday, 14 November 2013 (see [A/68/250](#), paras. 13 and 14).
4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that they may be revised periodically, as appropriate. The Committee will also consider certain items on its agenda jointly in order to ensure the full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, the conference services have allocated 27 meetings to the Committee and have urged the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the time allotted. Should the Committee wish to change the dates on which it considers items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below.

¹ For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see [A/68/251](#).



<i>Agenda items</i>	<i>Dates of consideration</i>
Organization of work	Thursday, 3 October 2013, morning (1 meeting)
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <i>e</i> of the Charter of the United Nations (item 56)	Monday, 7 October, afternoon Tuesday, 8 October, afternoon Wednesday, 9 October, afternoon Thursday, 10 October, afternoon Friday, 11 October, afternoon Monday, 14 October, morning (6 meetings)
Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 57)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 58)	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 59)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 60)	
(joint general debate and statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee)	
Questions relating to information (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate) (item 55)	Wednesday, 16 October, ^a morning Thursday, 17 October, morning Friday, 18 October, morning (3 meetings)
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate) (item 50)	Tuesday, 22 October, afternoon Wednesday, 23 October, afternoon Thursday, 24 October, afternoon (3 meetings)
Effects of atomic radiation (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate) (item 49)	Friday, 25 October, afternoon (1 meeting)
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate) (item 53)	Monday, 28 October, morning Tuesday, 29 October, morning Wednesday, 30 October, morning Thursday, 31 October, morning (4 meetings)
Assistance in mine action (introduction followed by a general debate) (item 48)	Friday, 1 November, morning (1 meeting)
Comprehensive review of special political missions (item 54)	Monday, 4 November, afternoon Tuesday, 5 November, afternoon (2 meetings)

<i>Agenda items</i>	<i>Dates of consideration</i>
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (question-and-answer period followed by a general debate) (item 51)	Wednesday, 6 November, afternoon Thursday, 7 November, morning (2 meetings)
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (question-and-answer period followed by a general debate) (item 52)	Friday, 8 November, morning Monday, 11 November, morning Tuesday, 12 November, morning (3 meetings)
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (draft programme of work for the next session) (item 122)	Thursday, 14 November, morning (1 meeting)
Programme planning (item 135)	
Action on all pending draft resolutions and decisions	
Total	27 meetings

^a Tuesday, 15 October 2013 is an official holiday.

5. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chair was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 56 to 60 and individual debates on agenda items 48 to 55, 122 and 135, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items, and the Chair suggests that the Committee devote its meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8, 9 and 10 October, to the hearing of petitioners;

(c) Item 122, "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", is allocated to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programme of work;

(d) Item 135, "Programme planning", is allocated to all the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly to enhance the discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports. If the Assembly allocates any report submitted under this item to the Fourth Committee, the Committee shall revert to this item.

6. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chair wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering agenda items 56 to 60 be closed on Monday, 7 October, at 6 p.m. The Committee will take decisions on the closure of the list of speakers relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Chair also wishes to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document [A/68/250](#), sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the decision of the General Assembly that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively, both for plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the sixty-eighth session. The attention of the members is also drawn to the decision of the Assembly to waive, at its sixty-eighth session, the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chair to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see [A/68/250](#), paras. 15 and 18).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes. In this connection, the Chair will set the time limit for the petitioners as it is deemed necessary.

10. The list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is contained in document [A/C.4/68/INF/1](#), which will be updated as necessary.
