



General Assembly

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Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 121

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2024

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/79/462](#), para. 24)]

79/192. 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.

53rd plenary meeting
17 December 2024