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Agenda item 123

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Opening of the regular sessions of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [72/313](#) on the revitalization of its work, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-third session a report on possible alternative dates for the beginning of the regular session of the Assembly and the financial and logistical implications thereof, as well as on potential benefits and shortcomings of various options, based on the premise that any such change would not have an effect on the beginning of the general debate in September.

2. The present report is being issued pursuant to that request.

II. Procedural framework

3. The Charter of the United Nations stipulates that “the General Assembly shall meet in regular annual sessions”.¹ The Charter does not contain a provision that deals with the opening date of the regular annual session; however, Article 21 of the Charter provides that “the General Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure”. The opening date of regular sessions is regulated in rule 1 of the Assembly’s rules of procedure ([A/520/Rev.18](#) and [A/520/Rev.18/Amend.1](#)), which sets out that regular sessions are to commence on the Tuesday of the third week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day.

4. While the rules of procedure provide for an opening date, the duration of sessions is not specifically regulated other than that the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall, at the beginning of each session, fix a closing date for the session.²

5. In practice, the Secretary-General, in the annual memorandum on the organization of the regular session of the General Assembly, makes recommendations

¹ Article 20.

² Rule 2 of the rules of procedure. Rule 6, furthermore, provides that the General Assembly may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meetings at a later date.



concerning the duration of the session for consideration by the General Committee, which in turn makes a recommendation to the Assembly. At the outset of the seventy-third session, for example, the Assembly, in its decision [73/502](#), approved the Committee's recommendation that the session recess on Monday, 17 December 2018, and close on Monday, 16 September 2019.

III. Historical background

A. Rule 1 (opening date)

6. While the formulation of rule 1 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly has varied over the years, the rule has consistently required the General Assembly to open its session in September.

7. The provisional rules of procedure of the General Assembly for the first session, recommended by the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations for adoption, and adopted by the Assembly on 11 January 1946, provided that "the General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the first Tuesday after 2 September" (PC/20, chap. I, sect. 3).

8. The rules of procedure of the General Assembly adopted on 17 November 1947 ([A/520](#)) provided that "the General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the third Tuesday in September".

9. In 2000, the General Assembly, in its resolution [55/14](#), amended rule 1 to read: "The General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the Tuesday following the second Monday in September".

10. In 2003, the General Assembly, in its resolution [57/301](#), further amended rule 1 to read: "The General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the Tuesday of the third week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day". This remains in force today.

11. The General Assembly has, however, in the past opened sessions on different dates: it opened its sixth session on 6 November 1951; its seventh session on 14 October 1952; its eleventh session on 12 November 1956; its nineteenth session on 1 December 1964; its twenty-third session on 24 September 1968; its fifty-third session on 9 September 1998; its fifty-fourth session on 14 September 1999; its fifty-fifth session on 5 September 2000; and its fifty-sixth session on 12 September 2001.

B. Duration of sessions: shift to year-round cycle

12. The General Assembly has met in regular annual session since it was first convened in London in 1946. In the early days of the Organization, the date and duration of regular sessions, initially, at any rate, tended to be determined while taking into account the trans-Atlantic transportation schedules. An indication of the importance of this factor is contained in a report of the Secretary-General from 1953 ([A/2436](#)) in which it is noted that any modifications to the opening date of the regular sessions of the General Assembly would have to take into account the booking situation during the period of heaviest west-to-east Atlantic traffic.

13. That the provisions of the Charter and the rules of procedure allow for the convening of special sessions and, since 1950, emergency special sessions pursuant to resolution 377 A (V), furthermore underlines the original conception of regular sessions as being of a limited duration. From a historical perspective, it is noteworthy

that the General Assembly, in 1947, decided to create an Interim Committee for the very purpose of dealing with matters specifically arising between regular sessions.

14. The duration of the first session in 1946, which consisted of two parts, was 13 weeks in total. While many subsequent sessions were held for 13 weeks, many others, from the very outset of the Organization's existence, were resumed during the following calendar year and held for more than 13 weeks.³ In 1971, the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly expressed the view that the average duration of 13 weeks for regular sessions should not be changed and that, in any case, the session should end before Christmas.⁴ The Committee, furthermore, did not endorse the suggestion that the session be divided into two parts or that theoretically it last a whole year and be adjourned after a two-month main session.⁵

15. In 1990, the General Assembly formally recognized the de facto year-round cycle by approving the recommendation of the General Committee that, in the light of the practice at recent sessions, the forty-fifth session should recess on 18 December 1990 and close on 16 September 1991 (A/45/250, para. 6). In 1995, the Secretary-General noted that, during the past few years, the Assembly had met frequently between January and August. During its forty-ninth session, the Assembly had met at least once every month from January to September, with the exception of August. Those meetings had not been envisaged in the calendar of meetings, and therefore ad hoc arrangement had to be made to continue to provide adequate secretariat services at the expense of other requirements (see A/BUR/50/1).

16. A further indication of the gradual extension to a full-year cycle can be found in the deliberations of the Committee on Contributions. In 2001, the Committee observed that Article 19 of the Charter was applied from 1 January of each year and that the Committee did not normally meet until June. Accordingly, Member States requesting exemption under Article 19 were liable to the loss of their right to vote until action was taken by the Committee and the General Assembly. In the past, that had not been a serious problem, since resumed and special sessions of the Assembly had been relatively rare. That was clearly no longer true with regard to resumed sessions.⁶

17. At present, the period which runs from September to December of the same year is referred to as "the main part of the [ordinal number] session" and the meetings resumed during the same session between January and September of the following year are referred to as meetings held "during its resumed [ordinal number] session" or "during the first part of its resumed [ordinal number] session".⁷

C. Programme of work: current practice

18. Before alternative options are examined, it is useful to briefly delineate the current practice pertaining to the programme of work of the General Assembly. At the outset of each session, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decides to allocate the items on its agenda for consideration in one, or more, of its six Main Committees, or for consideration directly in plenary meeting.

³ See *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, Article 20 (Supplements Nos. 1 and ff.).

⁴ Resolution 2837 (XXVI), annex II, para. 4.

⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 5.

⁶ A/51/11, A/51/11/Corr.1 and A/51/11/Corr.2, para. 9.

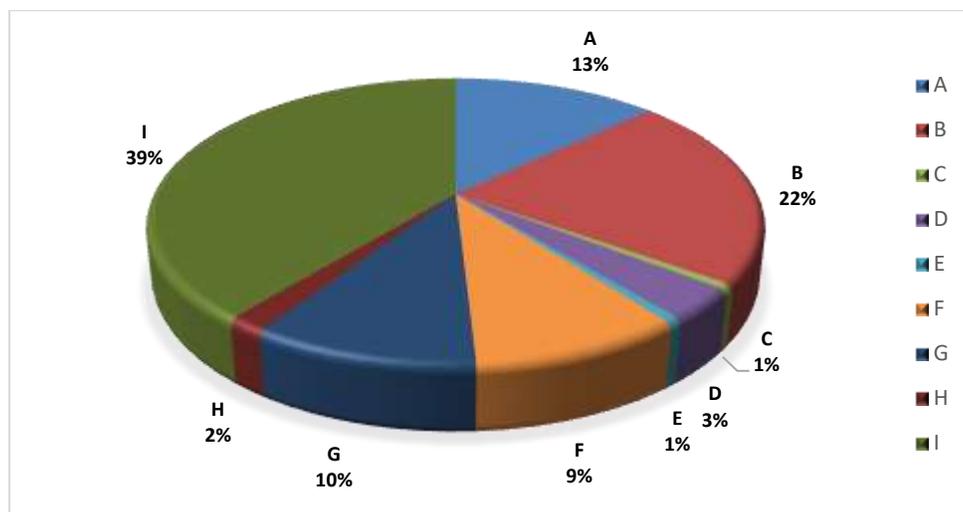
⁷ Editorial directive on the use of the word "session" in the context of the work of the General Assembly (ST/CS/SER.A/39), para. 6.

19. By its resolution [58/316](#) on the revitalization of its work, the General Assembly, for the purpose of giving a sense of structure to its work, achieving a better presentation of the issues and challenges with which it deals and making its work more accessible, decided that its agenda should be organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization.⁸

20. That decision was taken with the understanding that the new arrangement would not prejudice the way in which the work of the General Assembly is organized and carried out. Figure I shows the clustering of items under the headings on the agenda of the seventy-third session of the Assembly and the percentage of the total number of agenda items that the clustered items represent.

Figure I

Items on the agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, by heading



Note: For the purposes of the present figure, sub-items are not counted as separate items.

A: Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

B: Maintenance of international peace and security

C: Development of Africa

D: Promotion of human rights

E: Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

F: Promotion of justice and international law

G: Disarmament

H: Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

I: Organizational, administrative and other matters

Plenary meeting

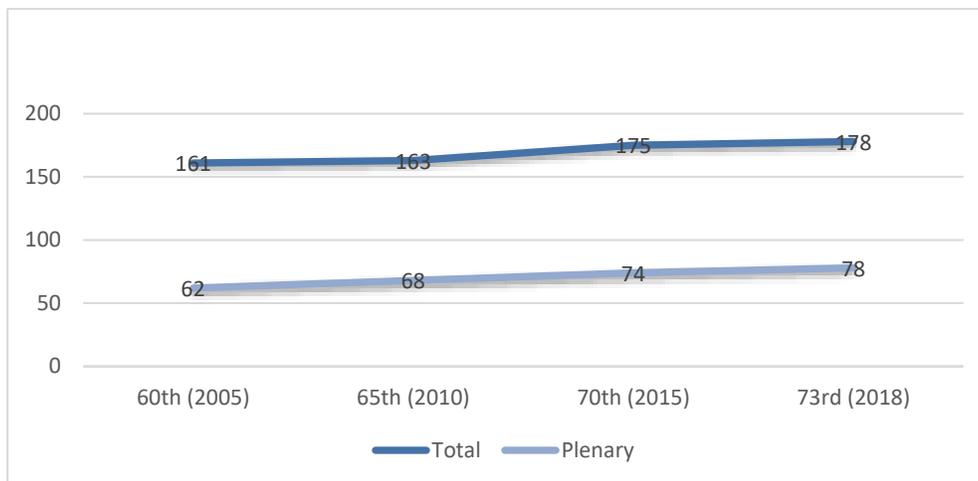
21. Items considered directly in plenary meeting are scheduled between the general debate and mid-December, that is, during the main part of the session.⁹ At the time of writing, the General Assembly had decided to consider 78 items on the agenda of its seventy-third session directly in plenary meeting (see [A/73/252](#)).

⁸ Subsequently, the General Assembly decided to reverse the order of the first two headings.

⁹ Pursuant to resolution [58/316](#) on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, a provisional programme of work is issued in July as a report of the Secretary-General. The programme is reissued in the form of a note by the President of the General Assembly once the session has opened.

22. The number of items on the Assembly's agenda, which has a bearing on their scheduling, has continued to increase over time (see figure II).

Figure II
Trend of agenda items since the 2005 World Summit



23. The current format of the programme of work has evolved organically and is based, inter alia, on the readiness and availability of documentation, the budget cycle, consideration of related items in the Main Committees (e.g. the item “Report of the Human Rights Council”, which is allocated to both the plenary and the Third Committee) and other activities (e.g. International Law Week).

24. Traditionally, the resumed part of the session has been dedicated to the consideration of the reports of the Fifth Committee and the conduct of informal consultations on various processes, including those arising from decisions taken during the main part of the session. The intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly have also been convened during that period.

25. In recent years, however, the General Assembly has mandated with increasing frequency the scheduling of items during the resumed part of the session. This includes the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the election of members of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the consideration of the annual report of the Security Council and the report of the Peacebuilding Commission.

26. Another contributing factor to a year-round programme has been the practice of holding informal interactive thematic debates, which the General Assembly decided to convene and organize in order to establish broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States, and which it authorized the President of the Assembly to propose on current issues on the agenda of the Assembly, in consultation with Member States.¹⁰

27. Consequently, the General Assembly has continued to encourage the holding of thematic interactive debates and invited the President of the Assembly to propose themes for such debates.¹¹ Most recently, the Assembly has called upon the President to organize such debates in close consultation with the General Committee and

¹⁰ See resolution [59/313](#).

¹¹ See resolution [60/286](#).

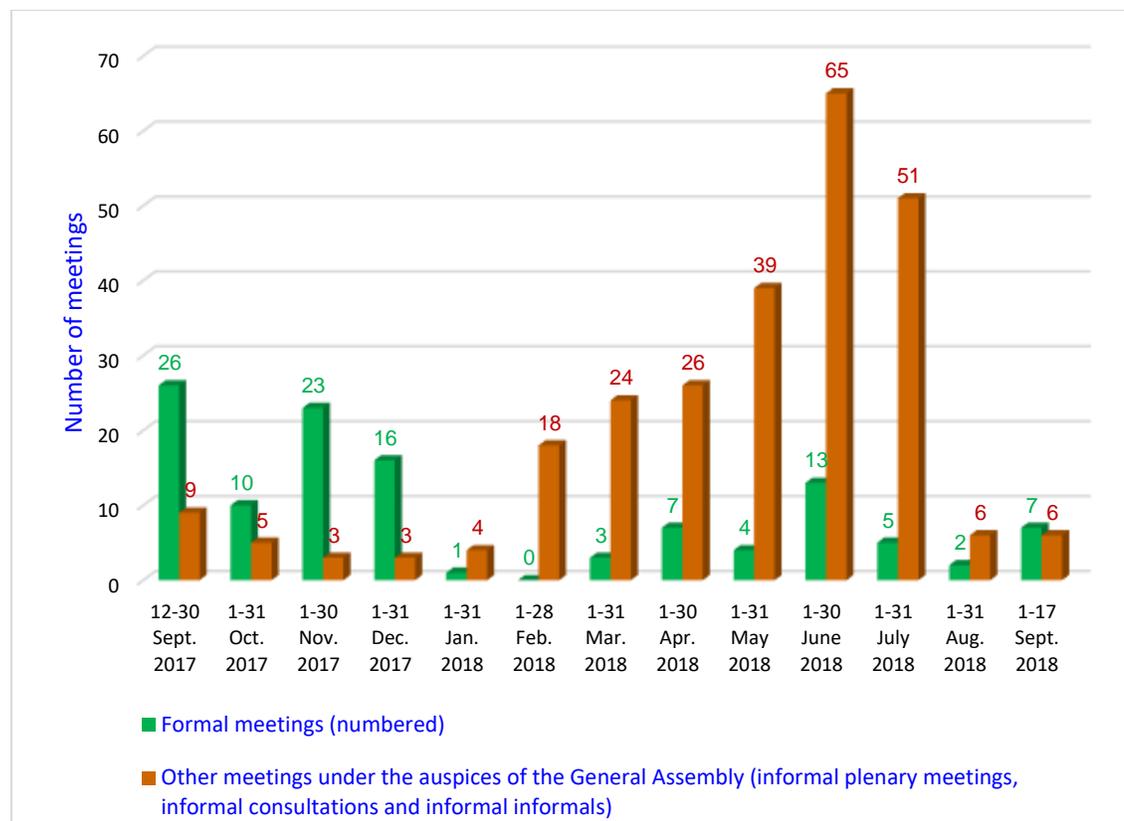
Member States, including with regard to the frequency and preliminary programme of such debates.¹² The debates are habitually convened during the resumed part of the session, that is, between January and September.

28. The General Assembly has also encouraged exploring the possibility of scheduling future high-level meetings during the early part of the year, that is, during the resumed part of the session.¹³ In practice, the Assembly has continued to mandate high-level meetings during its high-level week, in September, as well as during the remainder of the main part of the session.¹⁴

29. In recent years, the busiest periods of work occurred during the resumed part of the session, in particular during the months of May to July, which increasingly featured informal meetings under the auspices of the General Assembly (including informal consultations). The statistics from the most recent completed session illustrate that trend (see figure III).

Figure III

Meetings held during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly



30. The foregoing shows the Assembly's year-round work cycle, which needs to be taken into account when considering options for a change in the opening date of its regular sessions.

¹² See resolution 72/313.

¹³ See resolution 67/297.

¹⁴ E.g. for the opening of the seventy-fourth session, the General Assembly has mandated no less than five high-level meetings, in addition to the general debate.

Main Committees

31. The work of the Assembly's six Main Committees is scheduled during the main part of the regular session on the basis of a provisional programme of work adopted by the Committees at the end of their terms.¹⁵ At the outset of each session, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, determines a date by which each of the Committees is to complete its work during the main part of the session. Once the Assembly has taken a formal decision on the allocation of items, the Committees hold brief organizational meetings. The substantive part of their work begins only after the end of the general debate.

32. Of the Assembly's six Main Committees, the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) resumes its work twice during the resumed part of the session,¹⁶ and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) meets to take action on the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. In each case, the Assembly subsequently considers the report of the Committee in plenary meeting.

33. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General present various options for rescheduling the work of its Main Committees over two substantive periods during the session, the option of changing the schedule of some of the Committees to the period between January and May, instead of from October to December, was considered.¹⁷ The discussions were held as open-ended consultations in the General Committee, open to all Member States. However, the matter was ultimately deferred, and no further action was taken.

D. Past changes to the opening date

34. Member State interest in alternative options for the opening of the regular sessions dates back to the very beginning of the Organization. In the above-cited report from 1953, which was issued pursuant to a request from the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, for example, suggested 20 April as an alternative opening date. The Assembly, at the time, did not take any further action on that proposal.

35. At its fifty-first session, in 1997, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution [51/241](#), that its plenary meetings should be formally opened every year on the first Tuesday following 1 September with the election of the President; that the General Committee should then meet as soon as possible and present its report to the Assembly before the commencement of the general debate; and that the Assembly should reconvene in mid-September to consider the report of the Committee.¹⁸ In the same resolution, the Assembly also decided that the general debate should begin in the third week of September.

¹⁵ With the exception of the Fifth Committee.

¹⁶ In accordance with resolution [49/233 A](#), the financial period for each peacekeeping operation is from 1 July to 30 June.

¹⁷ See [A/58/CRP.3](#).

¹⁸ In his report on the implementation of resolution [51/241 \(A/52/855\)](#), the Secretary-General noted that rule 1 of the rules of procedure would need to be amended and that, were the General Assembly to retain the practice of closing a session on the Monday before the opening of the next session, the closing date would consistently fall on an official holiday of the Organization, for which financial and other implications might need to be considered. Consequently, the Assembly might wish to decide on a closing date for the fifty-second, and for future, sessions that would fall on a working day, and might wish to consider opening the session on the Wednesday following the first Monday in September and closing the session on the preceding day (*ibid.*, para. 17).

36. The fifty-third session opened on Wednesday, 9 September (instead of Tuesday, owing to Labour Day falling on a Monday), and the fifty-fifth session opened on Tuesday, 5 September. However, at the fifty-fourth session, which opened on 14 September, neither rule 1 nor resolution 51/241 was complied with, seemingly owing to the Labour Day holiday.

37. Accordingly, the General Assembly, by its resolution 55/14, decided to amend rule 1 to read: “The General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the Tuesday following the second Monday in September.”

38. Noting that the advancement of the opening date of the regular session as decided in its resolution 55/14 had resulted in insufficient time to ensure preparedness for the session, the Assembly, by its resolution 57/301, decided to once again amend rule 1 to read: “The General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the Tuesday of the third week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day.” That provision has proved practical and remains in force.

E. Renewed interest in changing the opening date

39. More recently, however, the Assembly has taken a renewed interest in the possibility of advancing the opening date of its regular sessions. This appears to be due to the concerns expressed by consecutive Presidents of the General Assembly in their briefings to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, in which they pointed out practical challenges that they had faced while assuming their responsibilities shortly before the commencement of the general debate.

40. According to the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session, “the handover in September only weeks before the general debate can place significant pressures” on the Office of the President.¹⁹ The Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the President of the Assembly at its seventy-first session stated that taking office one week prior to the general debate was extremely challenging for the incoming President and proposed that consideration be given “to bringing forward the beginning of each ... session by a number of weeks”, which would allow the incoming President more time to prepare for the upcoming general debate.²⁰ The President of the Assembly at its seventy-second session similarly suggested discussing the possibility of opening the session earlier than one week before the general debate, which would give the Office more time “to establish itself and get in full speed and full swing before the demands of [the] high-level week begin”.²¹

F. Election of the President of the General Assembly

41. It may be recalled that the timing of the election of the President remained unchanged from 1946 to 2002. During that period, the rules of procedure stipulated that “at the opening of each session ... the Chairman of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the General Assembly has elected a President for the session”.²²

¹⁹ Briefing on 7 April 2016.

²⁰ Briefing on 28 April 2017.

²¹ Briefing on 27 April 2018.

²² In practice, the outgoing Presidents presided over the opening of the session until the next President was elected.

42. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 56/509, decided to amend that procedure so that the President of the General Assembly was to be elected at least three months before the opening of the session. Before the adoption of that amendment, the Secretariat orally informed the Assembly that the resolution would not give rise to any programme budget implications, since no entitlement to support or services would arise before the President-elect took office as President (see A/56/PV.106).

43. At the time, that decision was hailed as a success that would bring about a change that would have far-reaching implications for the work of not only the General Assembly, but the entire United Nations system, and as representing not merely a procedural modification, but constituting a major step towards strengthening the Assembly by enabling its President to play that role in a much more expeditious and efficient manner (ibid.). The President of the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, as the first President to be elected in accordance with the amended procedure, described it as a very important achievement that would ensure the smoother transition of responsibilities of Presidents of the General Assembly and would enable him, and all future Presidents of the General Assembly, to be far better prepared for the demanding tasks ahead (ibid.).

44. However, as early as the fifty-eighth session, regret was expressed about the perceived lack of adequate institutional support for the Presidents-elect. Consequently, in its resolution 58/126, the General Assembly decided that transitional office accommodation and other support should be provided to the President-elect of the General Assembly and requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of such support, within existing resources, beginning with the President-elect of the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.

45. Both transitional office space and other support have been provided to incoming presidencies in accordance with resolution 58/126. Since then, the General Assembly has requested Presidents to provide a handover report including best practices and lessons learned to their successors, and measures have been taken to allow Presidents-elect to gain access to both non-staff programme budget resources and the trust fund in support of the Office of the President. During the transition period, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provides administrative and other support to the incoming Office. The Department also organizes an induction programme for the incoming Presidents and members of their Office prior to the assumption of their responsibilities.

46. Irrespective of the additional support currently available to incoming presidencies, there has been a perception, from the briefings to the Ad Hoc Working Group described above, that a change to the opening date could further accommodate incoming Presidents in their assumption of office.

IV. Options

47. Pursuant to resolution 72/313, the following alternative options, listed in chronological calendric order, have been identified as hypothetical possibilities, each with its own set of potential implications. In each case, the current practice of convening the general debate in September would remain unchanged.

Option A: the General Assembly would open on the Tuesday of the third week in January*Financial and logistical implications*

48. Under option A, the preceding session would adjourn in December, with a three-week interval during which the Assembly would not be in session.

49. As a result of moving the opening date in accordance with option A, the programme of work from January to September would need to be determined. One possibility would be to reschedule items currently slated for consideration directly in plenary meeting during what is currently referred to as the main part of the session. However, the rationale for the current timing of the consideration of several items needs to be borne in mind (see para. 23).

50. The General Assembly, in its resolution [72/313](#), indicated that the holding of the general debate in September should be maintained. Under option A, the general debate would thus not coincide with the beginning of the session, in January, but would be held during the latter part of the session.

51. The schedule of the Main Committees could either remain as is or, alternatively, be spread out over the calendar year, while taking into account the interlinkages with the meeting schedules of other bodies. This includes the Assembly's own subsidiary organs and other intergovernmental processes. The options from 2004²³ could also be reconsidered.

52. In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure, the timing of the election of the President and other officers would have to be moved from June to October. Option A would also raise the need for a transitional solution which that change, of necessity, would entail.

53. The cost implications of a change to a date in January of the Assembly's opening date would be contingent on a number of factors including the determination of consequent changes to the Assembly's programme of work. While it is premature at this stage to speculate on specific numbers, it is anticipated that a change of this magnitude could have considerable logistical consequences, including as regards the documentation cycle. Any budgetary implications arising from option A would be reported to the Assembly in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure.

Potential benefits

54. The President of the General Assembly would have sufficient time to settle into office and become acquainted with the working methods of the Assembly before the commencement of the general debate. Compared with the other options listed below, option A would have the added benefit of the newly elected Main Committee Chairs being able to follow the work of the Committees at the session preceding their assumption of office, if the Committees' practice of meeting between September and December is retained. As with the other options in the present report, the General Committee could convene its first meeting without time pressure.

Potential shortcomings

55. The general debate is currently held at the outset of the session; under option A, it would be held two thirds of the way through the session. With the opening of the session in January, a lack of momentum early on in the session would also be possible

²³ See [A/58/CRP.3](#).

if the Main Committees – possibly with the exception of the Fifth Committee – were to maintain the current calendar and commence their work in October.

Option B: the General Assembly would open on the Tuesday of the first week in August

Financial and logistical implications

56. The Assembly's programme of work would remain largely unchanged, with the principal difference being that the session would be closed by the beginning of August. Based on the experience from recent years, there have been fewer meetings of the General Assembly held in August, with a noticeable surge in the number of meetings at the beginning of September.

57. During that period, the Assembly traditionally considers all outstanding items and takes action on extant draft resolutions. Under option B, this would be done at the end of July or beginning of August. Under the current work cycle, the Assembly also convenes a number of recurrent mandated meetings in September, which, under option B, would become the first activities of each session to be undertaken in August or early September, before the general debate. Alternatively, they would have to be rescheduled to a different period during the session.

58. As noted under option A, any budgetary implications arising from option B would be reported to the Assembly in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure.

Potential benefits

59. The President of the General Assembly would have sufficient time to settle into office and become acquainted with the work of the Assembly before the commencement of the general debate. There would be more flexibility in scheduling high-level meetings at the beginning of the session. The General Committee could convene without time pressure.

Potential shortcomings

60. There is a risk of overlap between the closing of the Assembly's session and the most active period in the work of the Economic and Social Council; the Council's programme of work, including the timing of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under its auspices, would need to be borne in mind. If the current practice of concluding the main part of the session in December were to be maintained, the main part would be extended by one month, which may have financial implications. Furthermore, the level of attendance at General Assembly meetings and high-level meetings may be affected by the summer break.

Option C: the General Assembly would open on the Tuesday of the second week in September

Financial and logistical implications

61. Option C would represent the least radical change and facilitate the retention of the Assembly's current practices, including the programming of its work. Its main function would be to provide incoming Presidents with additional days to settle into office before the commencement of the general debate.

62. As noted above, any budgetary implications arising from option C would be reported to the Assembly in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure.

Potential benefits

63. The President of the General Assembly would have an additional week to settle into office before the commencement of the general debate. The General Committee could convene without time pressure.

Potential shortcomings

64. Option C would carry the risk of reverting to the situation created by resolution [55/14](#), which the Assembly deemed unsatisfactory shortly after its adoption (see paras. 36–38). To illustrate, if the option had been in effect during the seventy-second session, that session would have been scheduled to open on Tuesday, 5 September. Since Monday, 4 September and Thursday, 31 August were both official United Nations holidays, the seventy-first session would technically have had to conclude its work by 30 August. Subject to the calendar, this may be a recurrent situation in future years, also bearing in mind that the Assembly has designated additional days during which no meetings shall be held.²⁴

V. Conclusion

65. The present report sets out the extent to which the working methods of the General Assembly have evolved over more than seven decades. With regard to the opening date of the session, rule 1 of the rules of procedure has always required the Assembly to open its session in September, a rule that, in practice, has been observed, with some exceptions. In spite of the original conception of regular sessions as being of limited duration, the Assembly, from the very beginning, has resumed its session in the following year and, for many years, has been in session year-round. That evolution has been firmly entrenched over the past 30 years.

66. Consequently, any change other than a minor advancement of the opening of the regular sessions would have potentially far-reaching implications, including for the work of other intergovernmental bodies. It would have consequences for the processing of documentation, including the issuance of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.²⁵

67. From a procedural perspective, any such change would require an amendment of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

68. Should the General Assembly wish to further pursue any one of the options outlined in the present report, the Secretariat is prepared to provide more in-depth information regarding the practical and procedural implications for the Assembly and the Organization as a whole.

²⁴ See relevant resolutions on the pattern of conferences, by which the General Assembly invited United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations to avoid holding meetings on, inter alia, Yom Kippur, the Day of Vesak, Diwali, GURPURAB and Orthodox Christmas, and in that regard encouraged that the arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings.

²⁵ The rules of procedure of the General Assembly stipulate that the Secretary-General “shall communicate the annual report [on the work of the Organization] to the Members of the United Nations at least forty-five days before the opening of the session”. In resolution [51/241](#), it was decided that the report should be considered in plenary meetings of the Assembly immediately after the general debate. The resulting discrepancy would need to be borne in mind by the Assembly, should it decide to amend the opening date of its regular sessions.

VI. Recommendation

69. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.**
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