



General Assembly

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**Seventy-sixth 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.4/76/1](#). Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotations to the agenda ([A/76/100](#) and [A/76/100/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 seventy-sixth session should recess on Monday, 13 December 2021, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Friday, 12 November 2021 (see [A/76/250](#), paras. 20 and 21).
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. In the light of the continuing extraordinary circumstances relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Committee will consider the substantive items on its agenda jointly in order to ensure the full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it, and without creating a precedent for the work of the Committee at future sessions of the General Assembly. As indicated below, the conference services have allocated 18 in-person 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/76/251](#).



Date/time

Programme

**Week of 27 September–
1 October**
Thursday, 30 September

10 a.m. (in-person) Organization of work

Approval of programme of work

Approval of time limits for statements

Establishment of the Working Group of the Whole on outer space

Consideration of aide-memoire containing requests to petition on Non-Self-Governing Territories

Week of 4–8 October
Monday, 4 October

3 p.m. (in-person) Introductory statements and question-and-answer period:

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 54)

Introductory statements and question-and-answer period:

Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories (item 55)

Introductory statements:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 59)

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 60)

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 61)

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 62)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 63)

Approval of requests to petition on Non-Self-Governing Territories

Wednesday, 6 October

10 a.m. (in-person) Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):

Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee

Thursday 7 October

3 p.m. (in-person) Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):

Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee

Date/time

Programme

Week of 11–15 October**Monday, 11 October**

3 p.m. (in-person)

Consideration of decolonization items (*continued*):

Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee

Tuesday, 12 October

3 p.m. (in-person)

Consideration of decolonization items (*continued, if required*):

Statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as petitions on Non-Self-Governing Territories approved to be heard by the Committee

Friday, 15 October

3 p.m. (hybrid)

Introductory statement and interactive dialogue:

University for Peace (item 50)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue:

Questions relating to information (item 58)**Week of 18–22 October****Monday, 18 October**

3 p.m. (virtual)

Introductory statement:

Effects of atomic radiation (item 52)

Introductory statement:

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 53)

Introductory statements and interactive dialogue:

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 56)**Tuesday, 19 October**

3 p.m. (in-person)

Joint general debate:

University for Peace (item 50)**Assistance in mine action (item 51)****Effects of atomic radiation (item 52)****International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 53)****United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 54)****Israeli practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories (item 55)****Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 56)****Comprehensive review of special political missions (item 57)**

Date/time	Programme
	Questions relating to information (item 58) Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (item 59) Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 60) 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 61) Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 62) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 63)
Wednesday 20 October	
3 p.m. (in-person)	Joint general debate on items 50–63 (<i>continued</i>)
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers for the joint general debate on items 50–63
Friday 22 October	
3 p.m. (in-person)	Joint general debate on items 50–63 (<i>concluded</i>)
Week of 25–29 October	
Monday, 25 October	
10 a.m. (in-person)	Joint general debate on items 50–63 (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday 27 October	
10 a.m. (in-person)	Joint general debate on items 50–63 (<i>continued</i>)
Friday 29 October	
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of proposals under items 50–63
Week of 1–5 November	
Monday 1 November	
3 p.m. (in-person)	Joint general debate on items 50–63 (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday 3 November	
3 p.m. (in-person)	Joint general debate on items 50–63 (<i>continued</i>)
Week of 8–12 November	
Monday 8 November	
3 p.m. (in-person)	Joint general debate on items 50–63 (<i>concluded</i>)
Tuesday 9 November	
3 p.m. (in-person)	Introduction of and action on proposals

Date/time

Programme

Thursday 11 November

10 a.m. (in-person)

Action on proposals on all outstanding agenda items

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (item 122)

Proposed programme of work and timetable for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly and consideration of working methods

Programme planning (item 139)

Conclusion of the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the main part of the session

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

(a) The provisions contained in the present document constitute continuing extraordinary measures arising from the global COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees at the seventy-sixth session, and would accordingly be approved by the Fourth Committee on an exceptional basis, on the understanding that it would not constitute a precedent for the work of the Committee at future sessions;

(b) Item 123, 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;

(c) Item 139, 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 provisional organization of work above being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chair wishes to suggest that the list of speakers for the joint general debate on agenda items 50 to 63 be closed on Wednesday, 20 October, at 6 p.m.

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/76/250](#), 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 seventy-sixth session. The attention of the members is also drawn to the decision of the Assembly to waive, at its seventy-sixth 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/76/250](#), paras. 25 and 30).

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. The retention of these existing time limits takes into account

the exceptional approach being proposed to consider the substantive items on the Committee's agenda jointly and is with a view to allowing delegations reasonable time to deliver their consolidated overview statements. Time limits for statements in the exercise of the right of reply will be set at 5 and 3 minutes on an exceptional basis for the seventy-sixth session.

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.4/76/INF/1](#), which will be updated as necessary.
