



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session Sixth Committee

### Organization of work

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat considers it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions [1898 \(XVIII\)](#) of 11 November 1963 and [32/71](#) of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to draw the attention of the Committee to the information below.

#### Items allocated to the Sixth Committee

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, held on 8 September 2023, the General Assembly allocated 28 items to the Sixth Committee. The list of those items, organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, is contained in a note by the Secretariat on the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, which has been circulated as a document of the Committee ([A/C.6/78/1](#)). The Committee's attention is drawn to the relevant parts of sections III and IV of the report of the General Committee ([A/78/250](#)) concerning the agenda of the Main Committees and to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of the same report. Those recommendations were approved by the Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting.

#### Documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee

3. The table below lists the documents of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of the Assembly at preceding sessions, as well as to documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Committee,<sup>1</sup> in accordance with requests of Member States. The attention of delegates is also drawn to the website of the Committee.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the seventy-eighth session. The list of documents is based on information available as at 12 September 2023.

<sup>2</sup> [www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/index.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/index.shtml).



	<i>Projected date of issuance</i>
<b>Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]</b>	No advance documentation
<b>Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [76]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General: implementation ( <a href="#">A/78/248</a> )	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General: policies and procedures ( <a href="#">A/78/275</a> )	Issued
<b>Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-sixth session [77]</b>	
Report of the Commission ( <a href="#">A/78/17</a> )	Late September
<b>United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [78]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/78/___</a> )	Mid-October
<b>Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions [79]</b>	
Report of the Commission ( <a href="#">A/77/10</a> , chap. IV)	Issued
Report of the Commission ( <a href="#">A/78/10</a> )	Issued
<b>Crimes against humanity [80]</b>	No advance documentation
<b>Expulsion of aliens [81]</b>	No advance documentation
<b>Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [82]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions ( <a href="#">A/78/114</a> )	Issued
Report of the Special Committee ( <a href="#">A/78/33</a> )	Issued
<b>The rule of law at the national and international levels [83]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities ( <a href="#">A/78/184</a> )	Issued
<b>The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction [84]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/78/130</a> )	Issued
<b>Responsibility of international organizations [85]</b>	
Report of the Secretary-General on the responsibility of international organizations: comments and information received from Governments and international organizations ( <a href="#">A/78/135</a> )	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the responsibility of international organizations: compilation of decisions of international courts and tribunals ( <a href="#">A/78/83</a> )	Issued

	<i>Projected date of issuance</i>
<b>Protection of persons in the event of disasters</b> [86]	No advance documentation
<b>Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework</b> [87]	No advance documentation
<b>Measures to eliminate international terrorism</b> [109]	
Report of the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/78/221</a> )	Issued
<b>Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly</b> [120]	
(adoption of a provisional programme of work for the seventy-ninth session) (resolutions <a href="#">58/316</a> , <a href="#">75/325</a> and <a href="#">77/335</a> and decision 76/525)	No advance documentation
<b>Programme planning</b> [135]	
General Assembly resolutions <a href="#">58/269</a> , <a href="#">62/224</a> , <a href="#">63/247</a> , <a href="#">64/229</a> , <a href="#">65/244</a> , <a href="#">66/8</a> , <a href="#">66/294</a> , <a href="#">67/236</a> , <a href="#">69/17</a> , <a href="#">70/8</a> , <a href="#">71/6</a> , <a href="#">72/9</a> , <a href="#">73/269</a> , <a href="#">74/251</a> , <a href="#">75/243</a> and <a href="#">76/236</a>	
Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its sixty-third session (30 May–30 June 2023) ( <a href="#">A/78/16</a> )	Issued
<b>Administration of justice at the United Nations</b> [144]	
Report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice at the United Nations ( <a href="#">A/78/___</a> )	Late September
Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services ( <a href="#">A/78/170</a> )	Issued
Report of the Internal Justice Council ( <a href="#">A/78/121</a> )	Issued
<b>Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country</b> [161]	
Report of the Committee ( <a href="#">A/78/26</a> )	Late October
<b>Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly</b> [162]	
Letter dated 2 May 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/66/141</a> ) (see decisions 66/527, 67/525, 68/528, 69/527, 70/523, 71/524, 72/523, 73/534, 74/523, 75/529 and 76/527)	Issued
<b>Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly</b> [163]	
Letter dated 30 April 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/70/141</a> ) (see decisions 70/524, 71/525, 72/524, 73/535, 74/524, 75/530 and 76/528)	Issued
<b>Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly</b> [164]	
Letter dated 10 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">A/70/142</a> ) (see decisions 70/525, 71/526, 72/525, 73/536, 74/525, 75/531 and 76/529)	Issued

**Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat in the General Assembly [165]**

Note verbale dated 11 August 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/194](#)) (see decisions 72/526, 73/537, 74/526, 75/532 and 76/530) Issued

**Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly [166]**

Note verbale dated 12 August 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/72/195](#)) (see decisions 72/527, 73/538, 74/527, 75/533 and 76/531) Issued

**Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly [167]**

Letter dated 16 August 2019 from the representatives of France, Germany and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/291](#)) (see decisions 74/528, 75/534 and 76/532) Issued

**Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly [168]**

Letter dated 16 August 2019 from the representatives of France, Germany and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/292](#)) (see decisions 74/529, 75/535 and 76/533) Issued

**Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly [169]**

Letter dated 16 August 2019 from the representatives of China, Cambodia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/293](#)) (see decisions 74/530, 75/536 and 76/534) Issued

**Observer status for the International Parliamentarians' Congress in the General Assembly [170]**

Letter dated 17 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/78/141](#)) Issued

**Observer status for Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture in the General Assembly [171]**

Letter dated 1 August 2023 from the representatives of Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/78/191](#)) Issued

**Programme of work**

## 4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the

consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session 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 to each item.

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/325](#) on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the Assembly, at its 47th plenary meeting, held on 7 December 2022, adopted decision 77/521 containing the provisional programme of work of the Committee for the seventy-eighth session of the Assembly.

6. The General Assembly, at its 2nd plenary meeting, held on 9 September 2023, upon the recommendation of the General Committee (see [A/78/250](#)), fixed the target date of 17 November 2023 for the completion of the work of the Sixth Committee.

7. The Bureau of the Committee has considered the provisional programme of work as contained in decision 77/521 and has taken into account the allocation of additional items (requests for observer status in the General Assembly) to the Committee by the General Assembly and the anticipated workload at the present session. The programme has been adjusted accordingly.

	<i>Approximate dates of consideration</i>
Sixth Committee (organization of work)	2 October
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [109]	2, 3 and 4 October
Programme planning [135]	4 October
Protection of persons in the event of disasters [86]	4 October
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [76]	10 October
Administration of justice at the United Nations [144]	11 October
Crimes against humanity [80]	11 and 12 October
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction [84]	12 and 13 October
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-sixth session [77]	16 October
Request(s) for observer status (new items)	16 October
The rule of law at the national and international levels [83]	16 and 17 October
Responsibility of international organizations [85]	17 October
Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework [87]	18 October
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [78]	19 October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [82]	19 October
Expulsion of aliens [81]	20 October

	<i>Approximate dates of consideration</i>
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions [79]	23 to 27 October and 31 October to 2 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [161]	6 November
Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly [162]	8 November
Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union in the General Assembly [163]	8 November
Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly [164]	8 November
Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat in the General Assembly [165]	8 November
Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly [166]	8 November
Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly [167]	8 November
Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly [168]	8 November
Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly [169]	8 November
Observer status for the International Parliamentarians' Congress in the General Assembly [170]	8 November
Observer status for the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture in the General Assembly [171]	8 November
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [120]	8 November
Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]	17 November
In reserve	2 and 16 November

### **Establishment of working groups and holding of consultations**

8. Concerning agenda item 86, entitled "Protection of persons in the event of disasters", the General Assembly, by its resolution [76/119](#), decided to examine the draft articles and to consider further the recommendation of the International Law Commission for the elaboration of a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries on the basis of the draft articles, or any other potential course of action with respect to the draft articles, also in the light of the views and comments expressed in the debates of the Sixth Committee, as well as the comments and observations received from Governments, within the framework of a working group of the Committee, to be convened for four full consecutive days at the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth sessions of the Assembly. The General Assembly also decided that the working group would report to the Sixth Committee at the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly on the outcome of its deliberations, with a view to the Committee making a recommendation to the

Assembly as to any further action to take in respect of the draft articles. In the light of that, eight meetings, to be held on 5, 6, 9, 10 and 20 October, have been suggested for that purpose.

9. Concerning agenda item 109, entitled “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, the General Assembly, by its resolution [77/113](#), decided to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the seventy-eighth session of the Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution [54/110](#) concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In the light of that, two meetings, to be held on 17 October and 3 November, have been suggested for that purpose.

10. The consideration of the reports of the working groups in plenary is scheduled for 8 November. It has also been suggested that the following be held: a briefing on agenda item 76, entitled “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”, on 11 October; and informal consultations on agenda item 144, entitled “Administration of justice at the United Nations”, on 13 October.

11. In view of the limited conference services available to the Sixth Committee (see para. 21), any meetings for the working groups or for informal consultations are accommodated within the overall meetings allocated to the Committee.

#### **Statements by delegations**

12. The list of speakers for the debate on all agenda items opened on Wednesday, 13 September 2023. Delegations are invited to inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module for the Sixth Committee in the e-deleGATE portal.

13. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/313](#), delegations are encouraged to adhere to the “all protocol observed” principle and to refrain from listing standard protocol expressions during their statements. In the same resolution, the Assembly recommended that speakers should be mindful of the speed of statement delivery, bearing in mind the need for accuracy of interpretation. The delivery of national statements will be limited to 7 minutes, and group statements to 12 minutes, for all agenda items except those dealing with the annual report of the International Law Commission, which should be limited to main positions and views (with further information or clarifications provided in written submissions to the Commission).

14. In accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, 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 five minutes and the second, if any, to three minutes.

#### **Draft resolutions**

15. The initiation and sponsorship of draft resolutions, where applicable, will be undertaken electronically through the eSponsorship module for the Sixth Committee in the e-deleGATE portal.

16. Unless otherwise agreed, coordinators or main sponsors, as applicable, of proposals for draft resolutions are encouraged to hold at least one informal consultation per proposal. The Secretariat will provide assistance where necessary. Informal consultations should be announced sufficiently in advance, including in the *Journal of the United Nations*, so as to allow participation by representatives of all Member States. Once consultations have concluded, it is the practice of the Sixth

Committee to place proposals for draft resolutions under a silence procedure, prior to their submission for processing and issuance in all official languages as limited (“L”) documents.

17. All delegations wishing to sponsor a proposal for a draft resolution, where applicable, are encouraged to do so electronically through the eSponsorship module, rather than during the formal proceedings of the Committee. This is without prejudice to the possibility of delegations sponsoring a proposal for a draft resolution at the time of the Committee’s action on the latter during a plenary meeting. Sponsorship should take place in the Sixth Committee, given that, once the Committee has adopted a proposal for a draft resolution and recommended its adoption by the General Assembly, its sponsorship can no longer be altered by Member States. Proposals for draft resolutions submitted on behalf of the Bureau are not subject to sponsorship.

18. Pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, “no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General”. It is therefore imperative that the Sixth Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation of estimates of expenditure by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. Bearing in mind that 17 November has been fixed as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 6), 1 November would have to be considered the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications, except for draft resolutions concerning items to be considered after that date. When submitting such proposals, delegations may also wish to bear in mind that, in most cases, a period of more than 48 hours, up to four days, is required for the Secretary-General to review the programme budget implications of proposals. Accordingly, the deadline for finalization and submission of all draft resolutions for budget review and processing is 10 November 2023.

19. Each coordinator or main sponsor, as applicable, of proposals for draft resolutions will be invited to introduce their respective draft resolutions as issued in limited distribution (“L”) documents. Such introductions take place at plenary meetings, and will be announced in advance, including in the *Journal*.

20. Except for draft resolutions introduced at the final meeting of the substantive part of the session on 17 November 2023, it is the practice of the Committee to take action on each draft resolution at the plenary meeting following that at which the draft resolution was introduced, or at a later date. Any anticipated action on draft resolutions or decisions will be announced in advance, including in the *Journal* and on the website of the Committee. It is the practice of the Sixth Committee to strive for the adoption of draft resolutions without taking a vote.

#### **Conference resources available**

21. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold between three and six plenary meetings per week. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 to 6 p.m.

22. Unless otherwise specified, formal meetings of the Committee (in person) will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. The General Assembly has stressed that a punctual start to the meetings is critical to the efficient utilization of services allocated to the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice, rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly could be waived with respect to the quorum needed to declare a meeting open.