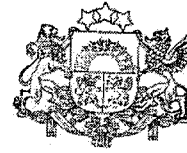


**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

13 March 2006

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to the third meeting of the ad hoc working group on revitalization of the General Assembly on Thursday, 16 March at 10am in the ECOSOC Chamber.

A number of delegations have communicated to us their wish to continue the general debate before consideration of specific themes. At our last meeting on 3 March, several delegations also expressed the need for more time to reflect and formulate reactions on the background note on the state of implementation of previous resolutions on revitalization of the General Assembly, circulated on 2 March.

As agreed at our 3 March meeting, we are now also circulating a note by the Secretariat on the work of the Main Committees on revitalization. We hope that you will find this material, together with the background note of 2 March, useful in our further deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Abdullah M. Alsaidi  
Co-Chair

Ambassador Solveiga Silkalna  
Co-Chair

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

For information

## **WORK OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES ON REVITALIZATION**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

The present note has been prepared in response to the request by Member States at the second meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, on 3 March 2006.

In section C, entitled "Practices and working methods of the Main Committees", comprising of paragraph 3 of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, it is decided that:

- (a) Each Main Committee shall give specific attention to the rationalization of their future agendas by the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items, and make recommendations to the plenary Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005;
- (b) Each Main Committee shall adopt a provisional programme of work at the end of the session for the next session to help them better to plan, prepare and organize and, in this context, review the related documentation requirements;
- (c) The practice of interactive debates and panel discussions shall be utilized or expanded, as appropriate, by all Main Committees so as to enhance informal, in-depth discussions and to bring together experts from various fields without prejudicing the progress of the substantive work of the Main Committees;
- (d) The practice of "question time" shall be introduced, as appropriate, in all Main Committees to enable a dynamic and candid exchange with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General and special rapporteurs;
- (e) The web sites of the Main Committees shall be enhanced and thereafter regularly updated and their content maintained by the secretariats of the Main Committees;
- (f) The bureaux-elect of the Main Committees shall meet immediately after their election in order to discuss the organization and division of their work;
- (g) With a view to ensuring the continuity and the effective organization of their work, the incoming bureaux of the Main Committees shall, no later than two weeks after their election, meet with the outgoing bureaux in order to consult on and review issues relating to the efficient functioning of the Main Committees;
- (h) Prior to the opening of each session, informal briefings of each Main Committee shall be convened to discuss the organization of work.

In implementing resolution 58/316, the Main Committees, in early 2005, have provided to the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly either by letter to the President of the session, as conference room papers or as resolution of the Assembly, their observations and recommendations on revitalization, particularly concerning the rationalization of agenda items and the working methods of their Committees. Some Committees also made comments on draft resolutions and documentation. Consideration of those proposals did not take place during the 59<sup>th</sup> session due to the intense preparations for the three-day high-level plenary meetings of the Assembly for the follow-up to the Millennium Summit.

/...

Since then, a number of the proposals concerning agenda items have been put into effect through the adoption of resolutions under the items. Some proposals on the working method of the Committee did not require formal decisions by the Assembly and have been put to practice by the Committees as part of the programme of their work.

At the 60<sup>th</sup> session, the Main Committees were also allocated the item on “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly” for the sole purpose of consideration and adoption of their provisional programme of work for the 61<sup>st</sup> session. All Committees except the Fifth Committee (which has not yet finished its work) have done so.

This note consists of two parts. Part I provides a brief overview of measures taken by the Main Committees in implementation of section C of resolution 58/316 since the adoption of the resolution. Part II contains the proposals by the Main Committees made during the 59<sup>th</sup> session and the status of implementation so far of the proposals. The annex at the end of the note gives a quick reference on the source of the proposals and recent action.

**I. Overview of the work of the Main Committees in implementation of section C, paragraph 3 (a) to (h) of Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004**

**FIRST COMMITTEE**

**Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)**

**59GA** - The First Committee adopted on 5 November 2004 a resolution on improving the effectiveness of the methods of its work of the First Committee (document A/C.1/59/L.60), which was adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2004 (see document A/RES/59/95). Among other things, this resolution invited Member States to consider the biennialization or triennialization of the agenda items discussed in the First Committee, on a voluntary basis, and particularly when no specific action was required to be taken for implementation.

**60GA** - The periods of work have been combined: the general debate is shorter; thematic discussions and introduction of resolutions were put together; and as the third stage, action on resolutions.

**Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)**

**59GA** - The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 60th session which was circulated to all Member States in a report of the Secretary-General (document A/59/860).

**60GA** - The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 61<sup>st</sup> session on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005, adopted by the General Assembly on 16 November 2005 (document A/60/524)

/...

**Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)**

The First Committee always has a well-established practice of interactive debates, especially during the week of its thematic discussions of the the session.

60GA - the committee has improved this practice.

**Question time (para. 3d)**

For both the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> sessions, the Committee held question times with high-level representatives of various disarmament bodies, including the President of the Conference on Disarmament, Chairman of the UN Disarmament Commission and others, invited by the Chairman of the Committee.

**Web site (para. 3e)**

During both 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> sessions, the Committee continued to update the content on its web site.

**Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after election (para. 3f)**

For both the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> sessions, the Bureau-elect met immediately after election. For the 60<sup>th</sup> session, the members of the Bureau-elect met at the end of June 2005.

**Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)**

60GA - The incoming bureau met once in a working lunch.

**Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)**

59 GA - The Committee had some informal briefing before the opening of session.

60GA - The Committee didn't have informal briefings, but held on 28 September 2005 a formal session, called Organizational meeting of the First Committee.

## FOURTH COMMITTEE

**Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)**

59GA - In his letter of 11 March 2005 to the President of the General Assembly, the Chairman proposed a number of recommendations on the allocation and re-allocation of items (See Part II for details).

60GA – The recommendations of the 59<sup>th</sup> session were reintroduced by the Fourth Committee in its report (A/60/525) for consideration and decision by the Assembly.

**Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)**

59GA - By its decision 60/250 of 20 September 2005, the General Assembly adopted the Committee's programme of work for the 60th session.

/...

**60GA** - The provisional programme of work for the 61st session was submitted by the Committee to the General Assembly (A/60/525, Annex I). By its decision of 8 December 2005, the General Assembly took note of the Committee's report containing the provisional programme of work for the 61st session.

**Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)**

**59GA and 60GA** - Interactive debates have been held especially for meetings on 3 agenda items: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspect; Questions relating to information; International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In some other cases, the meetings were prepared to be interactive but the technical nature of the agenda item - for example on 'Effects on atomic radiation' - could not allow the debates to be really interactive. Few or no questions were asked.

**Question time (para. 3d)**

**59GA** - It has been used for these two agenda items: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspect; Questions relating to information.

**60 GA** - It has been expanded to all agenda items except the first one (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and people).

**Web site (para. 3e)**

**60GA** - One new element has been added: the informal notice board, which aim to inform delegations about any changes (for example on program of work or procedural matters) that can occur during the session. Between the 13 October 2005 and the 14 November 2005, more than 1000 thousand hits on the page were recorded.

**Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after election (para. 3f) and Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)**

**60 GA** - The Bureau-elect met on 14 July 2005 and 19 July 2005. In both meetings, the incoming bureau met with outgoing bureau.

**Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h).**

**59GA and 60GA** - It has been done during the Organizational meeting.

## SECOND COMMITTEE

**Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)**

**59GA** -The Committee did not take any decisions on the rationalization of its agenda.

**60GA**- The Committee adopted resolutions which led to the biennialization of two agenda items:

1. Women in development; and
2. United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

/...

**Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)**

**59GA** - The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 60th session which was circulated to all Member States in a report of the Secretary-General (document A/59/860).

**60GA** - The provisional programme of work for the 61st session was adopted by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the General Assembly as a decision contained in the Committee's report (A/60/497, para. 5). By its decision 60/549 of 22 December 2005, the General Assembly adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work.

**Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)**

**59GA** - The Committee held panel discussions on the following issues:

- Development and conflict.
- The fortune at the bottom of the pyramid.
- The social dimension of globalization.
- Trade and development.
- Forging coherence to achieve the MDGs in the context of Globalization.
- United Nations Development Cooperation: Reforms, resources and results.
- United Nations Development Cooperation: Coordination, Participation and Effectiveness.
- Millennium Project

**60GA-** The Committee held panel discussions on the following issues:

- In search of prosperity: A view on national growth strategies.
- External debt relief and the achievement of the MDGs: Challenges and opportunities.
- Outcome of multi-stakeholder consultations on "Systematic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development".
- World Bank briefing on the 2006 World Development Report (Equality and Development).
- Outcome of multi-stakeholder consultations on:
  - (a) "Public-private partnerships in mobilizing resources for development" and
  - (b) "Improving the climate for private investment".
- Natural disasters – ISDR.
- Inequality predicament.
- Building inclusive financial sectors: Microcredit and eradication of poverty.
- UNAIDS Global Task Team: A model for reform of UN operational activities.
- Sustainable development: Energy issues.

/...

- Remittances.
- Global partnership: The role of the private sector in achieving the MDGs.

**Question time (para. 3d)**

During both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Committee held a “question time” for each agenda item

**Web site (para. 3e)**

As of the fifty-ninth session, the Committee’s website has been enhanced by making the presentation of the website and the information contained therein user-friendly. Also the content of the website has improved with the provision for more pertinent, detailed and latest information.

**Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after their election (para. 3f)**

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Bureau-elect had a meeting after their election.

**Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)**

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the incoming bureau, after their election, did meet with the outgoing bureau.

**Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)**

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Committee did hold informal briefing prior to the opening of the session.

### THIRD COMMITTEE

**Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)**

**59GA** - The Committee put forward a number of recommendations to biennialize, cluster and merger the agenda items. (See Part II for details).

**60GA** - Most of the recommendations made by the Chairman at the fifty-ninth session were confirmed in the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly during the sixtieth session. Hence, the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-first session includes most of the recommendations.

**Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)**

**59GA** - The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 60th session which was circulated to all Member States in a report of the Secretary-General (document A/59/860).

/...

**60GA** - The provisional programme of work for the 61st session was adopted by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the General Assembly as a decision contained in the Committee's report (A/60/512, para. 6). By its decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005, the General Assembly adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work.

**Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)**

**59GA** - The Committee did not hold any panel discussions during the fifty-ninth session.

**60GA** - The Committee held one panel discussion, on 11 October 2005, on the topic "Role of women in peacebuilding". The Committee also held a joint meeting with the Second Committee, on 8 November 2005, on the topic "International year of Microcredit".

**Question time (para. 3d)**

During both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Committee held a "question time" for each agenda item

**Web site (para. 3e)**

As of the fifty-ninth session, the Committee's website has been enhanced by making the presentation of the website and the information contained therein user-friendly. Also the content of the website has improved with the provision for more pertinent, detailed and latest information.

**Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after their election (para. 3f)**

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Bureau-elect had a meeting after their election.

**Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)**

Meeting did not need to take place for both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions.

**Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)**

For both the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the Committee did hold informal briefing prior to the opening of the session.

## FIFTH COMMITTEE

**Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)**

The Fifth Committee, in a letter dated 30 March 2005 addressed to the President of the President of the General Assembly, informed that the Committee, having examined its agenda, did not identify any agenda items in respect of which there was general agreement that it would be desirable to alter existing practice insofar as the annual, biennial, triennial, quadrennial or quinquennial consideration of the Committee's agenda items is concerned. The Fifth Committee has not yet considered this question at its 60<sup>th</sup> session.

/...



**Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)**

In the same letter, the Fifth Committee informed that owing to the fluid nature of its work and the last minute addition of urgent issues, the presentation of a programme of work some months in advance of the session is of very little value and that it would be helpful to have an understanding that this requirement will not be applied in the case of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee has not yet considered this question at its 60<sup>th</sup> session.

**Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)**

The Committee has a well-established practice of interactive debates. It holds many informal consultations and “informal informals” on an interactive basis.

**Question time (para. 3d)**

Question times with heads of departments and offices are held during the session on a particular agenda items and on all reports.

**Web site (para. 3e)**

The enhanced and regularly updated web-site is a much appreciated tool used by delegations in preparation of all the Committee meetings.

**Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after election (para. 3f)**

The bureau for the 60<sup>th</sup> session had not been fully constituted until September 2005.

**Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)**

Exchanges take place between the bureaus with a view to ensuring the continuity and the effective organization of the Committee’s work. The provision, however, could not be fully implemented for the same reason as 3 (f) above as well as due to the fact that the Committee met until September.

**Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)**

Informal briefings take place during the main and resumed sessions.

## SIXTH COMMITTEE

**Rationalization of future agendas (para. 3a)**

**59GA** - In his letter of 7 March 2005 to the President of the General Assembly, the Chairman informed that the Committee has already biennialized certain agenda items. Those measures were confirmed in the relevant resolutions adopted during the fifty-ninth session. No new items have been proposed for further biennialization.

**60GA** - The agenda for the 60<sup>th</sup> and subsequent sessions consists of items already previously biennialized.

/...

**Adoption of a provisional programme of work (para. 3b)**

**59GA** – The Committee adopted a provisional programme of work for the 60<sup>th</sup> session which was circulated to all Member States in a report of the Secretary-General (document A/59/860).

**60GA** – The provisional programme of work for the 61<sup>st</sup> session was adopted by the Committee and recommended for adoption by the Assembly as a decision contained in the Committee's report (A/60/523, para. 5). By its decision 60/513 of 8 December 2005, the Assembly adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work.

**Interactive debates and panel discussions (para. 3c)**

**59GA** – The Committee did not hold any interactive debates or panel discussions.

**60GA** – The Committee held one interactive dialogue on “Effects of armed conflict on treaties” in connection with the consideration of agenda item 80 entitled, “Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-seventh session”.

**Question time (para. 3d)**

**59GA** – The Committee devoted one meeting to question time on the topic “the rule of law”.

**60GA** – The Committee did not hold any question time.

**Web site (para. 3e)**

During both 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> sessions, the Committee continued to update the content on its web site, including placing the provisional programme of work on its web site and made it more user friendly in its format.

**Meeting of Bureau-elect immediately after election (para. 3f)**

**59GA** – The Bureau-elect met on 28 September 2004.

**60GA** – The Bureau-elect met on 3 October 2005 upon the election of the last member.

**Incoming bureau meeting with outgoing bureau no later than two weeks after election (para. 3g)**

The meetings did not take place for both the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> sessions. as the Committee did not see the need for both bureaus to meet.

**Informal briefings of Committee before opening of session on organization of work (para. 3h)**

The Committee did not hold any briefings for both the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> sessions but met in informal consultations before the opening of the respective sessions.

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## II. Proposals submitted by the Main Committees during the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly and the status of their implementation

### A. Rationalization of agenda

#### FIRST COMMITTEE

The First Committee decided to recommend the ordering of the items and sub-items allocated to it in seven clusters or broad topic areas:

1. Nuclear Weapons
2. Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
3. Outer Space (disarmament aspects)
4. Conventional Weapons
5. Regional disarmament and security
6. Other disarmament measures and international security
7. Disarmament machinery

**(Has been implemented for the first time at the 60<sup>th</sup> session as reflected in the organization of the Committee's work programme)**

#### FOURTH COMMITTEE

The Fourth Committee agreed that the GA should consider the following:

- Allocating some items of a predominantly and special political character from the Plenary to the Fourth Committee. The following items should be considered in this context:
  - Prevention of armed conflict
  - Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
- Allocating country-specific items of a predominantly political nature to the Fourth Committee after consultations with the co-sponsors of resolutions pertaining to these items.
- Relocating the item "Assistance in mine action" to another forum.
- Relocating the item "Effects of atomic radiation"; should the item stay on the agenda of the Fourth Committee, the resolution on this item should be biannualized, containing a provision which would allow the Committee to continue to meet annually.

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**(These proposals have been reintroduced at the 60<sup>th</sup> session in Annex II of the Committee's report (A/60/525) and are pending consideration and decision by the General Assembly.)**

## SECOND COMMITTEE

The Second Committee did not take any decisions on the rationalization of its agenda but acknowledged that "Member States could consider continuing the discussions on issues relevant to the review of the agenda" (see paragraph (a) of A/C.2/59/CRP.2/Rev.1).

**(No action required. See Part I relating to para. 3(a) for the subsequent biennialization of two agenda items.)**

## THIRD COMMITTEE

The Third Committee decided that:

1. The items "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" and "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" shall be merged into one new item as follows:

Item: Social Development:

- (a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;
- (b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;
- (c) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all;
- (d) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing;

**(Implemented – incorporated into the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61<sup>st</sup> session which was adopted by General Assembly in decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005)**

2. The sub-item "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" shall continue to be considered on a biennial basis. **(Implemented – as reflected in resolution 59/149 under the item)**

/...

3. The items “Crime prevention and criminal justice” and “International drug control”, while remaining separate, shall continue to be considered on a biennial basis. **(To be implemented by Member States in the submission of relevant draft resolutions)**

4. The items “Advancement of women” and “Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”” be merged into one new agenda item, as follows:

Item: Advancement of women:

- (a) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

**(Implemented – incorporated into the Committee’s provisional programme of work for the 61<sup>st</sup> session which was adopted by General Assembly in decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005)**

5. The item “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions” shall continue to be considered individually. **(Has been implemented from previous to the 58<sup>th</sup> session)**

6. The item “Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children”, normally considered in the plenary of the GA, and the item “Promotion and protection of the rights of children” shall be merged into one new item, as follows:

Item: Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

- (a) Follow-up to the **outcome of the** special session on children;

**(Implemented – incorporated into the Committee’s provisional programme of work for the 61<sup>st</sup> session adopted by General Assembly in decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005, with a slight revision to the title of the sub-item)**

7. The item “Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1995-2004” shall be renamed “Indigenous issues”. **(Implemented – as reflected in General Assembly resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004)**

8. The item “Elimination of racism and racial discrimination” and its sub-item “Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action” shall continue to be considered as one item, as follows:

/...

Item: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:

- (a) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

**(Has been implemented from previous to the 58<sup>th</sup> session)**

9. The sub-items “Implementation of human rights instruments”, “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms”, “Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives”, “Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”, “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights” shall be merge into one new agenda item. as follows:

Item: Protection and promotion of human rights:

- (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
- (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

**(Implemented – incorporated into the Committee’s provisional programme of work for the 61<sup>st</sup> session which was adopted by General Assembly in decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005)**

10. The item “Global road safety crisis” should be allocated to the plenary or to another Main Committee. **(To be implemented - pending consideration and decision by the General Assembly)**

#### **FIFTH COMMITTEE**

The Fifth Committee, (letter of 30 Mar. 2005 to the President of the General Assembly), informed that the Committee, having examined its agenda, did not identify any agenda items in respect of which there was general agreement that it would be desirable to alter existing practice insofar as the annual, biennial, triennial, quadrennial or quinquennial consideration of the Committee’s agenda items is concerned. **(No additional action has been taken by the Committee)**

/...

## SIXTH COMMITTEE

The Sixth Committee (letter of 7 March 2005 to the President of the General Assembly), informed that: "Some time ago, the Sixth Committee took measures aimed at biennializing certain agenda items. Those measures were confirmed by the relevant resolutions adopted during the fifty-ninth session". **(No additional action has been taken by the Committee.)**

### B. Working methods

## FIRST COMMITTEE

Reference: Resolution 59/95:

...

2. *Also invites* Member States to continue to hold interactive debates based on a programme and format elaborated through informal consultations between the Bureau and Member States in advance of each First Committee session; **(Implemented - See Part I)**
3. *Further invites* Member States to submit draft resolutions in a more concise, focused and action-oriented manner and, where practical, to consider the possibility of submitting draft decisions; **(To be implemented by Member States)**
4. *Recommends* that the respective sponsors of draft resolutions hold informal consultations, both before and during First Committee meetings, with the participation of all interested Member States for furthering discussions on draft resolutions already submitted or yet to be submitted to the Committee; **(To be implemented by Member States)**
5. *Encourages* Member States to introduce draft resolutions on related or complementary issues to find commonalities in the language and purpose of those draft resolutions, and invites Member States to consider pursuing mergers of such texts through consultations with all sponsors; **(To be implemented by Member States)**
6. *Also encourages* Member States, in particular those that present any draft resolution, to follow up on the agreed resolution in order to contribute to the achievement of the objective of such resolution; **(To be implemented by Member States)**
7. *Encourages* the First Committee to introduce presentations of, and focus discussions on, reports on the work of expert groups, the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters initiated by the Committee; **(Implemented on a continuous basis by the Secretariat)**

/...

9. *Requests* the First Committee, in the light of the growing interconnectedness of issues before the General Assembly, to explore the forms of mutual cooperation with other Main Committees; **(Implemented by the Committee on an ongoing basis)**

10. *Decides* to develop further, within existing resources, the electronic support for the work of the First Committee, in particular through the existing web sites; **(Implemented - see Part I)**

#### FOURTH COMMITTEE

The Committee agrees:

- The number of meetings on the item “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space” should be reduced from four to three. **(Implemented by the Committee as reflected in its programme of work)**
- It should request the Special Committee to examine possibilities to streamline its work and present concrete proposals for further consideration by the Fourth Committee regarding the item “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”. **(To be implemented – this proposal will need to be forwarded to the Special Committee by the Assembly)**
- Greater use should be made of interactive debates, panel discussions and question time with representatives from the Secretariat, experts and other stakeholders. **(Implemented – see Part I relating to para. 3(c) and 3 (d))**
- The debate concerning the item “Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects” should be divided by chapters according to the reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping. In this context, special attention should be given to the subject of Peace-building in the context of addressing post-conflict situations. **(Not implemented - Practically, the report of the Special Committee is considered as a whole, not divided into chapters.)**
- Regarding the item “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, representatives of COPUOS should give an interactive presentation on its work at the beginning of the first meeting, followed by Q&A. **(Implemented as of the 60<sup>th</sup> session.)**
- The items “Question relating to information” and “UNRWA” should also contain a Q&A period. **(Implemented – see Part I relating to para. 3(d))**

/...



## SECOND COMMITTEE

Reference: A/C.2/59/CRP.2/Rev.1:

1. Efforts to enhance the work of the Second Committee should be combined with the objective of reaching consensus, which has traditionally been the guiding principle of its work. In efforts to reform the Committee's methods of work it is important that the quality of the resolutions adopted be preserved. The final outcomes need to be meaningful and add value to the issues under consideration. Discussions and events that are linked to the work of the Committee should contribute to a broader understanding and consideration of the issues and thereby could enrich the work of the Committee. It is suggested that the practice be maintained of allocating enough time, after the formal consideration of each cluster of the programme work, to allow delegations to engage in negotiations, if required, in order to approve the draft resolutions on a rolling basis. The presentation on time of draft resolutions is fundamental to the effective work of the Committee. However, delegations may need more time to finish negotiations. The commitment to present draft resolutions and complete negotiations by the deadlines should be respected. In this spirit, it is proposed that:

- (a) If required, more time be allocated for negotiations after the formal consideration of a cluster;
- (b) In the organization of work, different dates be fixed to adopt resolutions.

**(Has been implemented by the Second Committee)**

2. If the need arises, and within existing resources, prior to the adoption of draft resolutions the Chairman may wish to schedule formal informals. **(Implemented by the Second Committee)**
3. In order to ensure the timely consideration of the sub-items in the "Macroeconomic policy questions" cluster, and on the basis of the results of prior consultations by the Chairman of the Second Committee with the representatives of Member States in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Development Board, the Committee requests the Committee on Conferences to consider advancing the timing of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board meeting so that its report is available by the middle of September. **(To be implemented by the Second Committee)**
4. The long-standing practice of inviting, within existing resources, key speakers and organizing panels and round tables should be maintained. The Secretariat should continue to consult well in advance with the Bureau about the preparations for such events so that they can be brought to the attention of Member States at the beginning of the session of the Committee. Care must be taken not to overload the programme of work of the Committee.

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the relevant agenda items in order to contribute to a broader understanding and consideration of those agenda items. Attention should also be given to the increasing role of side events organized by Member States that are related to the agenda of the Committee and that would attract the participation of the members of the Committee. Member States might consider informing the Secretariat and the Bureau of their intention in this respect so that time can be set aside for these events. **(Has been implemented by the Second Committee)**

5. It is necessary to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents simultaneously in the six official languages of the General Assembly (see resolution 55/222). **(Has been implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat)**

6. Delegations should try to benefit in full from the question-and-answer time by having at least 30 to 45 minutes of discussion with the officials responsible for the preparation and presentation of the reports. Officials should be well prepared to give answers to the questions posed to them, and delegations could use this time to express views on the issues under discussion. **(Implemented - see Part I relating to para. 3(d))**

7. Member States could evaluate the possibility of using the consideration of agenda items as an opportunity to exchange lessons learned and highlight their own experiences in addition to stating their national positions. In any case, efforts should be made to respect the time limits established for statements. **(To be implemented by Member States)**

8. Every effort should be made to reach consensus in a timely fashion. Enough time should be allocated for the drafting of forward-looking resolutions that reflect current trends and realities. **(To be implemented by Member States in conjunction with the Committee Secretariat)**

9. Resolutions should be concise and action-oriented, and the Committee should observe the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions in this regard, in particular resolution 57/270 B. **(To be implemented by Member States)**

10. In order to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of resolutions, reports should focus on implementation by the various actors addressed in the resolutions. Special emphasis should be placed on implementation by the United Nations system. **(Implemented by Member States when drafting resolutions)**

### THIRD COMMITTEE

Reference: A/C.3/59/CRP.1 as revised:

1. With a view to enhancing participatory and interactive discussions:

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- (a) Executive heads of agencies, funds and programmes, representatives of the Secretary-General, special procedures, and, where appropriate, chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies shall introduce their reports at the commencement of the debate on the items. Interactive discussions and question times shall be held with those personalities as part of the formal proceedings. The Secretariat is requested to provide the Third Committee with a list of participants prior to the debates, in order to facilitate delegation's preparations for the question time. **(Implemented by the Third Committee Secretariat)**
- (b) The Third Committee will introduce on a pilot basis, at its 60<sup>th</sup> session, interactive debates in an informal setting, on the understanding that the Committee will not meet at the same time. Any such sessions should be held within the existing budget allocated for Third Committee meetings and should not result in the expansion of the Committee's schedule of work. Interactive debates shall be organized in consultation with Member States. **(Implemented by the Third Committee Secretariat. See Part I relating to para. 3(c))**
2. Regarding the drafting resolutions, preambular and operative paragraphs shall be concise, focused and designed to have an impact on policy development. **(To be implemented by Member States)**
3. Resolutions should be tabled, when appropriate, biennially or at longer intervals. **(To be implemented by Member States)**
4. The ECOSOC report shall be considered in its entirety in the plenary of the GA. Those parts of the report that coincide with items allocated to the Third Committee, resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council shall only be forwarded to the Committee for final action by the Assembly when the latter is required to consider issues related to mandates, additional appropriations or other related matters. In this regard, there should be close informal communications between the Chairman of the Third Committee and the President of ECOSOC. **(Implemented both by the plenary and the Committee)**
5. Member States are encouraged not to present within the Third Committee resolutions and decisions that have already been adopted by ECOSOC or its subsidiary bodies. **(Implemented by Member States, as reflected in the report of ECOSOC applicable only to the item entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice")**
6. The deadline for submission of proposals tabled under the first agenda item shall be the same as the deadline for submission of proposals under the second agenda item considered by the Committee. Informal consultation should be concluded early enough to meet the tabling deadline. **(Unimplementable as the deadlines are staggered in accordance with the schedule of the consideration of the agenda items)**

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7. Member States should make every effort to reduce the number of reports requested from the Secretary-General, inter alia, by requesting consolidated reports. There should be no automaticity in requesting reports: they should only be requested when they would assist in taking stock of developments on a particular issue. **(To be implemented by Member States)**

8. Reports shall be issued in strict compliance with the 6-week rule of distribution of documents simultaneously in the six official languages of the UN. Reports shall be substantive and analytical. The focus should be kept on recent developments, progress made, challenges, conclusions and recommendations. **(Implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat)**

9. Documentation should be made available for distribution in the meeting room 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. **(Implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat)**

10. The web-site of the Third Committee should be further developed and utilized. Member States and observers are encouraged to post documents, including draft resolutions and statements made in the general debate, on the web site. **(Implemented – see Part I, relating to para. 3(e))**

11. The Third Committee should consider closer collaboration with other Main Committees, to identify issues that are also under the consideration of those Committees. In this regard, joint panel discussions and meetings may be held on issues of common interest. **(Implemented by the Third Committee – see Part I relating to para. 3(c))**

12. The Third Committee should also take into account the experience and best practices of other Main Committees in improving its work. **(To be implemented by the Third Committee)**

13. The Third Committee shall continue to examine ways to revitalize its work and take appropriate action by consensus in this regard. **(To be implemented by the Third Committee)**

## **FIFTH COMMITTEE**

The Fifth Committee informed that the Committee has already been implementing the provisions of paragraphs 3(c), 3(d)-(f) and 3(h) of resolution 58/316. **(No further action is required)**

In view of the fact that the Committee's work is increasingly impacted by both the late availability and quality of reports, it might be useful for the incoming Chair of the Fifth Committee to meet with the Secretary of the Fifth Committee and the Chair of ACABQ approximately two months prior to each GA session to review and expedite the issuance of reports. **(To be implemented by the Fifth Committee)**

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Regarding paragraph 3(b) and 5(d) of resolution 58/316, the last minute addition of urgent issues renders the presentation of a programme of work some months in advance of the session of very little value. It would be helpful to have an understanding that this requirement will not be applied in the case of the Fifth Committee. **(The Committee did not adopt any provisional programme of work for both the 59<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> sessions)**

### **SIXTH COMMITTEE**

The Sixth Committee informed the Committee has taken steps aimed at enhancing further the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, the interaction between the

Sixth Committee and the International Law Commission, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two bodies. During the 59th session, the Sixth Committee also took several initiatives to hold interactive debates, panel discussions and question and answer time. **(Implemented - see Part I relating to para. 3(c))**

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Annex**Revitalization of Main Committees: references**

	<b>Rationalizing of Agenda</b>	<b>Provisional Programme of Work</b>	<b>Working Methods (e.g. Interactive debates, Question time, Drafting of resolutions etc.)</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Cttee</b>	Letter dated 5 November 2004 from the Chairman of the Committee to the President of the GA.	Letter dated 5 November 2004 from the Chairman of the Committee to the President of the GA. (see also A/59/860).  By decision 60/521 of 8 December 2005, the GA approved the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61 <sup>st</sup> session (see A/60/524, Annex).	See resolution 59/95, adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2004
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Cttee</b>	See Non-paper approved by the Committee on 11 March 2005	A/C.4/59/CRP.1 (see also A/59/860).  By decision 60/526 of 8 December 2005, the GA took note of the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61 <sup>st</sup> session (see A/60/525, Annex I).	See Non-paper approved by the Committee on 11 March 2005.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Cttee</b>	-	A/C.2/59/CRP.1 (see also A/59/860).  By decision 60/549 of 22 December 2005, the GA adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61 <sup>st</sup> session (see A/60/497, para. 5).	A/C.2/59/CRP.2/Rev.1
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Cttee</b>	A/C.3/59/CRP.1/Rev1 (section A)	A/C.3/59/CRP.2 (see also A/59/860).  By decision 60/537 of 16 December 2005, the GA adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61 <sup>st</sup> session (see A/60/512, para. 6).	A/C.3/59/CRP.1/Rev1 (section B)

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Cttee</b>	Letter dated 30 March 2005 from the Chair of the Committee to the President of the Assembly.	-	Letter dated 30 March 2005 from the Chair of the Committee to the President of the Assembly.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Cttee</b>	Letter dated 23 March 2005 from the Chair of the Committee to the President of the Assembly.	<p>A Provisional Programme of Work for the 60th session was adopted at 18 February 2005 (see also A/59/860).</p> <p>By decision 60/513 of 8 December 2005, the GA adopted the Committee's provisional programme of work for the 61<sup>st</sup> session (see A/60/523, para. 5).</p>	-