



**SPECIAL POLITICAL AND
DECOLONIZATION
COMMITTEE
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)**



BACKGROUND

Ad Hoc Political Committee
(A/RES/1104 (XI) of 18 Dec. 1956) became
Special Political Committee

Trusteeship Committee
(including Non-Self-
Governing Territories)
(Fourth Committee)

Special Political and
Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)
(A/RES/47/233 of 14 September 1993)

Rule 98 of the rules of procedure
of the General Assembly





PROGRAMME OF WORK

- Proposed draft programme approved at the seventy-fourth session (A/74/419). Due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, the Committee's programme of work will be revised and issued with explanations as a Note by the Chair (A/C.4/75/L.1) and formally approved by the Committee at its first (organizational) meeting at the start of its session in early October 2020.
- Each week, the Committee will meet either in the morning or the afternoon, alternating with the First Committee.



AGENDA

1. Effects of atomic radiation (item 49)
2. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 50)
3. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 51)
4. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 52)
5. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 53)
6. Comprehensive review of special political missions (item 54)
7. Questions relating to information (item 55)



AGENDA cont.

8. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73*e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 56);
9. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 57);
10. 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 58);
11. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 59);
12. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 60);
13. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (item 126);
14. Programme planning (item 142).



DOCUMENTATION

Pre-session

- General Assembly provisional agenda (A/75/150, items 49-60)
- Programme of work (A/C.4/75/L.1)
- List of documents (A/C.4/75/INF/1) (Reports of the Secretary-General, reports of subsidiary bodies)
- From previous session – summary records (A/C.4/74/SR.1-25, checklist of resolutions and decisions adopted A/C.4/74/INF/3/Rev.1)

In-session

- Draft resolutions (L documents A/C.4/75/L. ____)

Post-session

- Checklist of reports of the Committee (A/C.4/75/INF/3 and INF/3/Rev.1)
(to be considered at a GA plenary meeting in December)



BODIES SUBMITTING REPORTS

- Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (C-24) [Res. 1654 (XV)] (A/75/23)
- Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) [Res. 1472 A (XIV)] (A/75/20)
- Committee on Information [Res. 33/1115C] (A/75/21)
- United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) [Res. 913(X)] (A/75/46)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) [Res. 2656(XXV)] (Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, A/75/...)
- Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories [Res. 2443 (XXIII)] (Report of the Special Committee transmitted by the SG - A/75/...)
- Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations [Res. 2006 (XIX)] (To be submitted in 2021 as A/75/19)

HEARING OF PETITIONERS ON NSGTS

Petitioners (representing individuals or organizations) can request to speak before the Committee on one of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories (American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Western Sahara, Falkland Islands (Malvinas))

2019 **130** (including 91 on Western Sahara, 27 on French Polynesia, 1 on Gibraltar, 10 on Guam and 1 on New Caledonia)

2018 **114** (including 78 on Western Sahara, 26 on French Polynesia, 1 on Gibraltar, 6 on Guam, 2 on New Caledonia and 1 on Turks and Caicos Islands)

2017 **116** (including 77 on Western Sahara, 16 on French Polynesia)

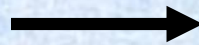
2016: **102** (78 on Western Sahara, 1 on Gibraltar, 1 from Falkland Islands (Malvinas), 18 from French Polynesia, 1 from New Caledonia, and 3 from the US Virgin Islands)

2015: **80** (70 on Western Sahara, 1 on Gibraltar, 1 on Guam, 1 on Falkland Islands (Malvinas), 3 on French Polynesia, 4 on New Caledonia)



PHASES OF CONSIDERATION

**General debate
(including interactive dialogues)**



**Action on draft resolutions
at the end of the general debate**

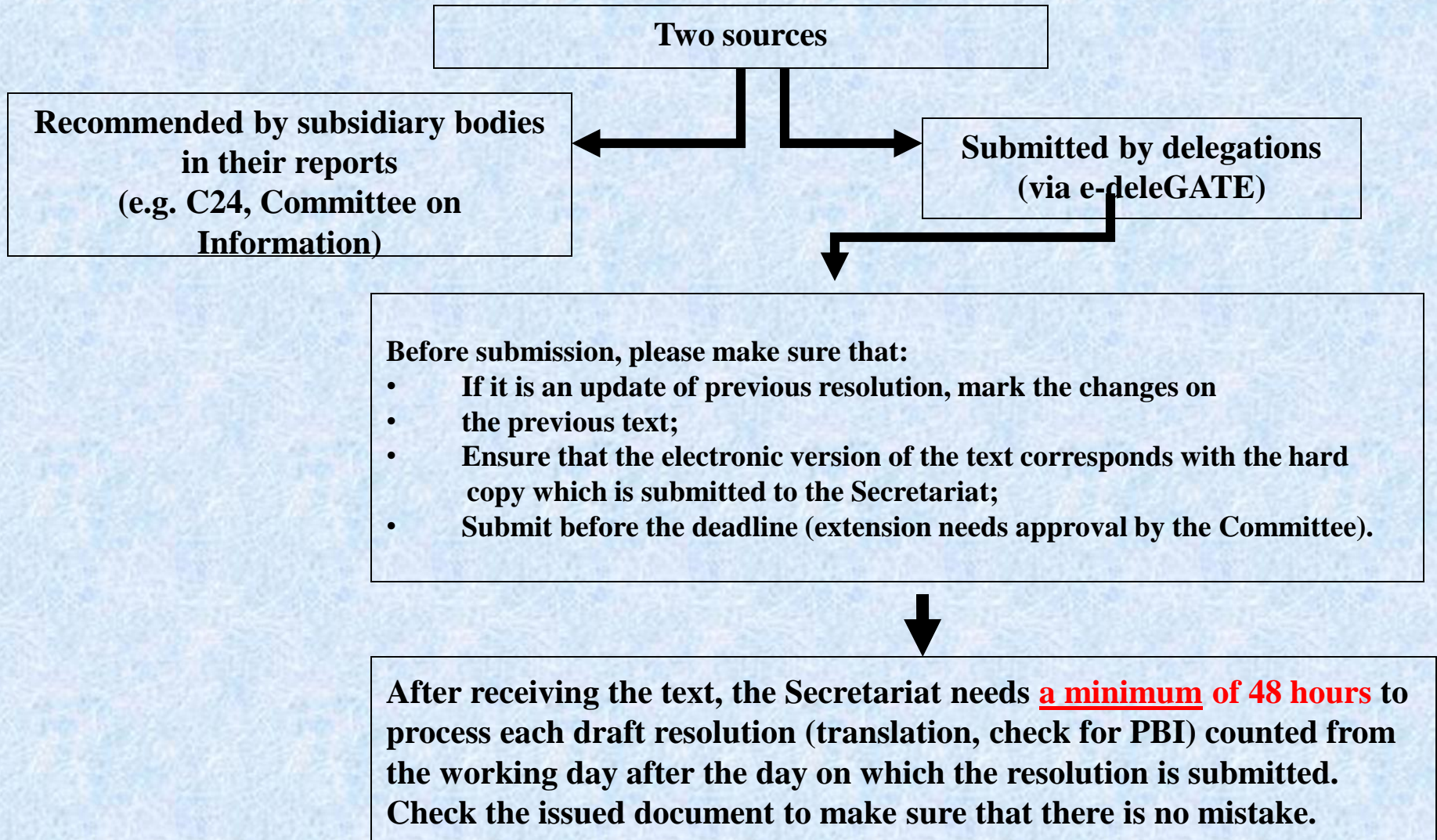
Exceptions



- **One combined general debate on all the decolonization items (items 56-60).**
- **Separate general debates on UNRWA and 'Israeli Practices' items;
However action on all draft resolutions submitted under the two items is taken together.**
- **On the peacekeeping item, interactive dialogue and general debate only; action under this will be taken up during the resumed session of the Committee in 2021, when it considers the report of the C 34).**



SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS





DECISION-MAKING

Recorded vote

- 1. About half of the draft resolutions submitted under decolonization items;**
- 2. All the draft resolutions submitted under UNRWA and 'Israeli Practices' items.**

Without a vote

Draft resolutions submitted under other items are usually adopted without a vote.

Action on the draft resolutions is usually taken right after the general debate on a particular item.

At the main part of its seventy-fourth session, the Committee adopted 37 draft proposals including 35 draft resolutions and 2 draft decisions. 13 of the draft resolutions were adopted by vote.



VOTING

- Member States will be informed in advance when action will be taken on draft resolution(s).
- Come to the conference room in good time.
- Once voting starts, check the voting display after you push the button to vote to make sure your vote is correctly reflected on screen. If not, inform the Chair or the Secretary's team immediately (before the vote is closed).
- After vote is closed, inform the Secretariat in case of any mistake. It will not be possible to change the result of the vote, but the intended vote will be reflected in the report to the GA plenary. Delegations will need to indicate their correct vote by filling out an e-voting intention form in e-deleGATE



VOTING PROCEDURE

The Chair will remind delegations of the procedures before the voting

- Before action is taken, all delegations will have an opportunity to make general statements
- When the Committee starts to take action, the floor is given to those (non co-sponsors) who wish to explain their vote before the vote

ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

- After action, the Chair will allow those (non co-sponsors), who wish to do so, to explain their vote after the vote
- Then, all delegations will again have an opportunity to make general statements



E- Tools

E-deleGATE:

- e-Speakers,
- e-Sponsorship,
- e-List of participants,
- Fourth Committee Place

Access to e- deleGATE is provided by each mission's accreditation focal point.



CONTACTS

Public webpage of the Committee

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/index.shtml>

Archived webcasts

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/general-assembly/main-committees/>

Fourth Committee press releases

<http://www.un.org/press/en/content/fourth-committee>

All Inquiries can be directed to the Secretariat 4thCommittee@un.org

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