Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) of the General Assembly
Role and main responsibilities of the technical secretariat (what do we do?)

- Provide technical secretariat support to the Committee focusing on procedural and organizational matters.
- Ensure all services are in place and are used efficiently and effectively.
- Work closely with other offices involved in the substantive work of the Committee.
- Support the Chair and the Bureau.
1) Programme of work (proposed modalities) - Interactive dialogues, general debate.

2) Documentation and draft proposals (i.e. resolutions or decisions - including introduction and action).

3) The Bureau.

4) Tools.
Programme of work

• Programme of work - circulated on the e-deleGATE portal and the Committee website.

• 14 items considered annually – 2 of which are organizational.

• General Committee to recommend items for inclusions and allocation on 18 September – GA plenary to adopt the agenda on 20 September.
Programme of work, cont’d

• 8 weeks of deliberations (5 weeks of deliberations and 3 weeks of action).
• List of speakers for general debate with a deadline.
• Time limits: 5 minutes for individual delegations and 7 minutes for groups.
• For interactive dialogues: 2-3 minutes.
Programme of work, cont’d

• Human rights item (item 72) includes presentations by special procedure mandate-holders and other experts (over 60 expected for 75th session).
• Up to 3 experts presenting per meeting followed by an interactive dialogue with each presenter.
• Action during first 5 weeks through in-person meetings not possible.
Draft programme of work
Useful documents:
• Historical information on items: GA annotated agenda (A/75/100)
• Working methods of the 3rd Committee: A/C.3/74/CRP.1

Pre-session
• Organization of work (A/C.3/75/L.1)
• Status of documentation – (A/C.3/75/L.1/Add.1)

In-session
• Draft resolutions and decisions (L documents A/C.3/75/L._)

Post-session
• Reports under each item with technical proceedings and action taken (to be reflected in the checklist A/C.3/75/INF/1)
Submission of draft proposals

• Submission of draft proposals (Res. and Dec.) should follow the guidelines.

• **Important:** use A/RES document as basis when based on previous text.

• Submission at least **4 working days** in advance of action – processing and budget review.

• USE E-SUBMISSIONS.
• *Sponsorship*: through *e-Sponsorship* module in e-delegate or in room prior to action during in-person formal meetings.

• *e-Sponsorship* will close at the start of the consideration of a draft proposal for in-person formal meetings or at the expiration of the silence procedure if such a procedure is used.
Formal and informal meetings

• Formal meetings: Plenaries of up to 3-hours in duration, with interpretation services, summary records and a press release.

• Virtual meetings

• Punctuality and utilization important.

• Informal consultations do not have services mentioned above.

• All meetings announced in the UN Journal.
Bureau

• **Chair**: Her Excellency Katalin Bogay, Permanent Representative of Hungary
• **Vice-Chairs**:  
  – Ms. Pilar Eugenio of Ukraine
• **Rapporteur**: Ms. Myriam Oehri of Liechtenstein
• **Vice Chairs (nominated)**:  
  – Ms. Ahlem Sara Charikhi of Algeria  
  – Mr. Khaled Mohammed Al Manzlawiy of Saudi Arabia
Bureau cont’d

Functions:

• Organize the work of the Committee.

• Divides the responsibilities for draft resolutions by regions.

• Reviews the progress of work and coordinate action in the plenary.
Tools

• Committee website, e-deleGATE portal, web-app.
• e-deleGATE portal ([edelegate.un.int]) – list of speakers/submission and sponsorship of proposals/voting intentions/texts of draft resolutions/announcements.
• Web-app: links to relevant pages in user-friendly format.
Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee)

Third Committee

The Third Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, is chaired by H.E. Mahmoud Saikal (Afghanistan).

The General Assembly allocates to the Third Committee, agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world.

As in previous sessions, an important part of the work of the Committee will focus on the examination of human rights questions, including reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council which was established in 2006. In October 2018, the Committee will hear and interact with special rapporteurs, independent experts, and chairs of working groups as mandated by the Human Rights Council.

The Committee also discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

At the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the Third Committee considered over 60 draft resolutions, more than half of which were submitted under the human rights agenda item alone. These included three so-called country-specific resolutions on human rights situations.

The Third Committee is expected to consider a similar number of draft resolutions during the present session of the General Assembly.

In line with General Assembly resolution 68/246, the formal meetings of the Third Committee are webcast live on UN Web TV. Live coverage of the formal meetings is available in the six official languages of the United Nations, including the original language of the speaker. Past meetings of the session will also be available from the Committee’s dedicated video archives.
E-deleGATE portal
https://edelegate.un.int/
Thank you

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