

79th UN General Assembly: Committees 2 & 3

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Theme of 79th UNGA

“Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations.”

General Assembly Leadership

President of the General Assembly (PGA):

Philémon Yang (Cameroon)
[Official website](#) | [@UN_PGA](#) (X)

Context

Bridging the gap between what is said and discussed at the UN headquarters and how that is translated into policy at the national and local levels remains a persistent challenge. Most countries have a “permanent mission” at UNHQ primarily staffed by officials in the foreign service. The issues under consideration at the UN cover the full gamut of national and community-level concerns. Attention and querying at the national level on how concerns are being represented at the UN are integral to democratic global governance and accountability.

The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**’s annual session started in September with many Heads of State and Government converging on UNHQ in New York City. Their statements at the high-level [General Debate](#) and high-level thematic sessions reveal national priorities. The **Summit of the Future (SOTF)** held on 22-23 September dominated this year, where Member States adopted the SOTF’s outcome document, [Pact for the Future](#), with its annexes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration of Future Generations. The Pact addresses actions and commitments to sustainable development and financing for development, international peace and security, science technology and innovation, youth and future generations and global governance. The Pact for the Future lacks the high level of ambition some Member States sought, but represents a widespread acknowledgement of the need to reset multilateralism in the face of geopolitical tensions and flagrant violations of international law and the UN Charter. (For more information on the Summit of the Future and Pact for the Future, see GPF’s [Global Policy UN Watch No. 8](#)).

The work of the General Assembly is carried out by Member States in its plenary and **six main committees**. Collectively, they take up a full range of issues covering peace and

**Chair of UNGA First Committee (C1)
Disarmament and International
Security**

Maritza Chan Valverde, *Permanent Representative of Costa Rica* | [Bureau](#)

**Chair of UNGA Second Committee
(C2) Economic and Financial**

Muhammad Abdul Muhith, *Permanent Representative of Bangladesh* | [Bureau](#)

**Chair of UNGA Third Committee (C3)
Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
Issues**

Zéphyrin Maniratanga, *Permanent Representative of Burundi* | [Bureau](#)

**Chair of UNGA Fourth Committee
(C4)
Special Political and Decolonization**

Sanita Pavļuta-Deslandes, *Permanent Representative of Latvia* | [Bureau](#)

**Chair of UNGA Fifth Committee (C5)
Administrative and Budgetary**

Egriselda Aracely González López, *Permanent Representative of El Salvador* | [Bureau](#)

**Chair of UNGA Sixth Committee (C6)
Legal**

Rui Vinhas, *Permanent Representative of El Portugal* | [Bureau](#)

disarmament, economics and finance, social, cultural and humanitarian concerns as well as tackling budget and legal matters.

Spotlight on Committees 2 & 3

The tables below outline the meeting schedule, links and throughlines for action on the deliberations of the **Second and Third Committees**, focusing respectively on economic, financial and environmental matters, and on social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

A major area of contention during the Pact for the Future negotiations was reform of the international financial architecture (IFA) for better and equitable international cooperation on sustainable development, especially as Member States are in preparations for the 4th International Conferences on Financing for Development (FFD4). There will be a stocktaking in C2 and in C3 of where we are and where we would like to be.

Key issues highlighted in the tables include macroeconomics, sustainable development, debt, food security, unilateral coercive measures (UCMs), information and communications technology (ICT), and social justice and human rights issues. Formal meetings of both committees can be followed on [UN Web TV](#).

Working methods of Committees 2 & 3

The **Second Committee (C2)** discusses issues concerning economic and financial policy, as well as the development activities of the UN system. As a main committee of the General Assembly, the Second Committee has the participation of all UN Member States (MS). Statements can be delivered both individually and as a group (e.g., G77 & China, EU). Outcomes of deliberations (proposals) are expressed in **resolutions or decisions**, usually after an extensive process of negotiations conducted mainly in “informal consultations”. The working method of the C2 seeks to **adopt outcomes by consensus**; it completes around 40 resolutions each session.

C2 scope of work includes the following issues:

Resources

1. [Letters from the PGA](#)
2. [UNGA79 Agenda of sessions](#)
3. [UNGA79 High-Level Meetings](#)
4. [UNGA79 Resolutions](#)
5. [UNGA79 Documents](#)
6. [UN Journal](#)
7. [UN Library](#)
8. [UN Web TV](#)

macroeconomic policy; operational activities for development; financing for development; groups of countries in special situations; globalization and interdependence; eradication of poverty; sustainable development; UN development activities; information and communication technologies for development; agriculture development, food security and nutrition; human settlements and sustainable urban development; and sovereignty of the Palestinian people over their natural resources; global partnership (biennial)

The **Third Committee (C3)** deliberates issues concerning human rights, humanitarian matters, and social and cultural issues. The C3 adopts around 60 resolutions, **many by a vote**. These tend to be regarding issues of human rights and are introduced by the UN **special rapporteurs** and **independent experts** who have been appointed by the Human Rights Council ([UNHRC](#)).

C3 scope of work includes the following issues:

advancement of women; protection of children; treatment of refugees through the elimination of racism and discrimination; promotion of fundamental freedoms and the right to self-determination; indigenous issues; social matters such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control

Some Member State positions and statements can be tracked in the [UN Journal](#), and by searching in the [UN Library](#) and official delegation websites.

GPF provides consistent and meticulous monitoring and tracking of many issues and government positions and deliberations to support processes of engagement and accountability at national levels and work to close the global governance gap.

The [GPW website](#) contains a collection of briefings, publications and resources, and the Global Policy UN Watch ([GPUNW](#)) provides up to date information on recent and upcoming UN processes that are relevant to work taking place at the national level.

Some agenda items of work for C2 & C3

Second Committee (C2) - Economic and Financial | [Website](#) | [Full Organization of Work](#) | [Full Calendar](#)

Item #	GA Issue	Meeting Date	Resources
23	<p>Operational Activities for Development Segment (OAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding of the UN Development System; UN aid to governments in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) State of South-South cooperation Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system 	<p>9 OCT</p> <p>Video: AM / PM</p>	<p>A/79/230 A/79/72-E/2024/12 A/79/72/Add.1-E/2024/12/Add.1 A/79/72/Add.2-E/2024/12/Add.2</p>
16/17	<p>Macroeconomic policy questions/Financing for Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International financial system & development International coordination and cooperation to combat illicit financial flows External debt sustainability and development New trade dynamics and industrial policies: realizing inclusive trade gains Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (FFD) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Draft Terms of Reference for a UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation Summary of the 2024 Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, including the Special High-Level Meeting with the BWIs, WTO, and UNCTAD 	<p>10 OCT</p>	<p>A/79/130 A/79/186 A/79/209 A/79/256 A/79/285 A/79/209/Corr.1 A/79/333 A/79/92</p>
18	<p>Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the 2030 Agenda 	<p>14 - 15 OCT</p>	<p>A/79/79-E/2024/54 A/79/268 A/79/25</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow Up and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) pathway ● Disaster Risk Reduction ● Climate Change/Environmental Protection ● Energy Security ● Promotion of a Solidarity Economy 		A/79/273
	ECOSOC-C2 joint meeting	15 OCT	
22/24	Eradication of Poverty ; Agriculture Development, Food Security & Nutrition	17 OCT	A/79/158 , A/79/210 , A/79/228 , A/79/246 , A/79/248 , A/79/257 , A/79/111 , A/79/193 , A/79/73-E/2024/50
15/20	ICTs for sustainable development; Globalization & interdependence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society ● Towards a New International Economic Order ● Globalization and sustainable development in an interconnected world ● International migration and development 	18 OCT	A/79/62-E/2024/3 A/79/320 A/79/321 A/79/323
	Action on proposals	13 NOV	
	Deadline submission for final draft proposals	19 NOV	
	Action on proposals	25 - 27 NOV	
	Conclusion of the work of the 2nd committee	27 NOV	

Third Committee (C3) - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues | [Website](#) | [Full Organization of Work](#) | [Full Calendar](#) | [Full Schedule of Briefings from Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts](#)

Item #	GA Issue	Meeting Date	Resources
26	<p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) • Information and digital technologies for advancing social development : opportunities and challenges for improving social policies (A/79/154) • Literacy for empowerment and transformation (A/79/155) 	<p>3 - 4 OCT</p> <p>Video: AM / PM</p>	<p>A/79/154 A/79/155 GPW Round Up #8 on WSSD2</p>
71 (a-d)	<p><i>Briefings from Special Rapporteurs</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On adequate housing and the right to non-discrimination in this context, Mr. Balakrishnan RAJAGOPAL 2. On the right to food, Mr. Michael FAKHRI 3. On safe drinking water and sanitation, Mr. Pedro ARROJO-AGUDO 	18 OCT	<p>HRC res. 52/10 para. 3 & 10 GA res. 78/198, para. 51 HRC res. 49/13 para. 3 & 6 HRC Res. 51/19 para. 4</p>
71 (a-d)	<p><i>Briefings from Special Rapporteurs</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On clean, healthy and sustainable environment, Ms. Astrid PUENTES RIAÑO 2. On environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Mr. Marcos A. ORELLANA 	18 OCT	<p>GA res. 77/218, para. 30; HRC res. 55/2 para. 3 & 4 (i) HRC res. 54/10 para. 2</p>
71 (a-d)	<p><i>Briefings from Special Rapporteurs</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Ms. Tlaleng MOFOKENG 2. On extreme poverty and human rights, Mr. Olivier DE SCHUTTER 3. Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, Ms. Cecilia BAILLIET 	24 OCT	<p>HRC res. 51/21 para. 3 & 8 HRC res. 53/10 para. 2 & 4 HRC res. 53/5 para. 3</p>
71	<i>Briefings from Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts</i>	25 OCT	GA res. 78/203 para. 52

(a-d)	<p>1. Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, Mr. Zamir AKRAM</p> <p>2. Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, Mr. Mihir KANADE</p> <p>3. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, Mr. Surya DEVA</p>		<p>HRC res. 45/6 para. 11</p> <p>HRC res. 33/14 para 14 (e) & 51/7 para. 19</p> <p>GPW report on RTD</p>
71 (a-d)	<p><i>Briefings from Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts</i></p> <p>1. On the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, Ms. Alena DOUHAN</p> <p>2. Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States, Ms. Attiya WARIS</p> <p>3. Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Mr. George KATROUGALOS</p>	28 OCT	<p>GA res. 78/202 para. 32</p> <p>HRC res. 54/15 para. 4 & 27/21 para. 27</p> <p>HRC res. 52/17 para. 2 & 4</p> <p>GA res. 78/196 para. 23</p> <p>HRC res. 54/4 para. 3 & 9</p>
	Action on Proposals	11 NOV	
	Deadline for submission of revised draft proposals	13 NOV	
	Action on proposals	13 NOV	
	Action on proposals	14 NOV	
	Deadline for submission on amendments	15 NOV	
	Action on Proposals	18 NOV	
	Action on proposals	20-21 NOV	
	Action on outstanding proposals; conclusion of the work of the 3rd committee	22 NOV	