

Committee Overview:*Purpose:*

The General Assembly Plenary is the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. The topics discussed cover the full spectrum of international issues covered by the UN charter, including political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal issues. The main purpose of the GA Plen is to reach a consensus on recommendations meant to promote international political cooperation, the recognition of human rights and freedoms, the codification of international law, and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields.

Members and Voting:

The GA Plen is comprised of all 192 members of the United Nations. Each Member State in the Assembly has one vote. Votes taken on important issues, such as recommendations on peace and security, and the election of Security Council members, require a two-thirds majority of Member States, but other questions are decided by simple majority. Recently, special efforts have been made to achieve a consensus on issues rather than holding a formal vote.

Powers:

The GA Plen makes recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among nations. Recommendations made by the General Assembly have initiated actions that affect the lives of millions of people worldwide. . Two other functions of the GA Plen include electing non-permanent members of the Security Council and other UN councils, and approving the UN budget.

Limitations:

While the General assembly discusses and votes on numerous resolutions, it is only empowered to make non-binding recommendations to States and the Security Council.