

After the adoption of the agenda itself, there follows the general debate. This "debate" will often last more than three weeks, and it is the occasion for nearly all member states to present the principal policy objectives of their governments in the form of a tour d'horizon of significant world affairs.

The general debate is followed by reports from the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). These are followed in turn by the elections of members to various UN councils, boards and commissions whenever such elections are due.

All the remaining agenda items are related to specific issues. Some have become very familiar over the years, and are carried over from one year to the next. Others evidence the UN's continuing concern for tackling current problems and are added to the agenda at the request of the Secretary-General, a principal organ of the UN, or a member state.

5. THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council is the main UN organ responsible for enforcement of peace and security. It is composed of 15 members; five of them are permanent members each with a veto power. The ten non-permanent members are elected for a term of two years and, according to the Charter, the criteria for election are based on "due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organizations, and also to equitable geographical distribution".

Canada was a member of the Security Council in 1948-49, 1958-59 and 1967-68. Canada was elected once again to the Council for 1977 and 1978 at the elections held during the thirty-first UN General Assembly. The membership is as follows:

	1978
Permanent members	USA USSR UK France China
Africa	Nigeria Mauritius Gabon
Asia	Kuwait India