



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1 April 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to write to you in the context of the rapidly evolving situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bureau of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has met and has agreed that, under the prevailing extraordinary circumstances, ECOSOC needs to be able to take essential decisions related to its ongoing work.

Taking into account the agreement reached in the context of the General Assembly on 27 March 2020 approving a procedure for taking decisions of the Assembly through a silence procedure during the COVID-19 pandemic (General Assembly decision 74/544), it is my pleasure to circulate the enclosed draft decision enabling ECOSOC to adopt decisions under a silence procedure.

The enclosed draft decision is hereby placed under silence procedure, until 5 p.m., on Friday, 3 April 2020. Comments and exceptions should be directed to the Office of the President of ECOSOC at Susan.eckey@mfa.no and Sunniva.Helen.Abrahamson@mfa.no.

Let me take this opportunity to express my solidarity with Member States who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mona Juul
President of the
Economic and Social Council

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

PROPOSAL – draft decision on procedure for taking decisions of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with concern the situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the limitations recommended on meetings within the United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19,

Authorizes the President of the Economic and Social Council, where, in her view, a plenary meeting of the Council is not practicable due to the coronavirus pandemic, to circulate, after consultation with the Bureau of the Council, draft decisions of the Council to all members of the Council, with copy to all other Member States for their information, under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours,

Decides that, if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the Council shall take note of the decision at its first plenary meeting held after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstances allow, and that this decision on the procedure for taking of decisions of the Economic and Social Council shall be in effect until the end of May 2020 unless extended through this procedure.