

**Step-by-Step process for consideration of draft decisions/resolutions in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020 entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”**

When the President of the Economic and Social Council intends to circulate a draft decision/ resolution to the members of the Economic and Social Council via silence procedure in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020 entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, the following steps will be followed:

1. The President of the Economic and Social Council will consult the Bureau, whose members will, in turn, consult with the members of their respective regional group. Information about this will be posted on ECOSOCPlace before a proposal is sent on silence procedure.
2. The President of the Economic and Social Council will, by a letter, circulate the draft decision/resolution to all members of the Economic and Social Council, with a copy to all other Member States for their information, under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours.
  - The letter will indicate the specific time by which any written objections should be raised;
  - The letter will attach the following:
    - The English text of the draft decision/resolution;
    - Any information available from the Secretariat on programme budgetary implications. If there is an oral statement on programme budgetary implications, it will be posted by DGACM on e-deleGATE (ECOSOC announcements) and Member States will also be notified by email from ECOSOCPlace@un.org;
    - Outline the procedure for explanations of vote/position in connection with the proposal by members of the Council or general statements in connection with the proposal by non-members of the Council or by members of the Council that are sponsors of a draft decision/resolution (see below).
  - The draft decision/resolution, if submitted for issuance as an official document, will be available in UN Official Document System (<https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp>) before or soon after the letter is sent, if available at that point in all official languages.
3. Members of the Council wishing to make an explanation of vote/position and other Member States wishing to make a general statement in connection with the proposal, may do so in either of the following ways, without prejudice to the delegations’ rights under the rules of procedure to explain their vote/position or the practice to allow delegations to deliver a general statement in connection with the proposal at the first plenary meeting to be held in order for the Council to take note of the decision after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstance allow:

- a. Option 1: Electronic versions of the statements in explanation of vote or general statements in connection with the draft proposal will be posted on the [e-deleGATE](#) portal, under ECOSOC announcements. Please indicate the title of the draft decision/resolution and symbol in the subject line of the e-mail to be sent to the Economic and Social Council Affairs Branch, DGACM (*contact information to be provided at the time of circulation of the draft proposal*).
  - b. Option 2: Council members and other Member States can address their communication to the President of the Economic and Social Council (to be sent to her office as per details in the letter), which can then be circulated in a subsequent letter from the President to all members of the Council, with a copy to all other Member States for their information. Please clearly indicate the title of the draft decision/resolution and symbol in the subject line of the communication.
4. If there are no objections within the specified time period, the President of the Economic and Social Council will circulate a letter confirming adoption.
  5. If there are objections, the President of the Economic and Social Council will circulate a letter informing that the silence has been broken.

The President of the Council may choose to refer the draft decision/resolution and the objections to the Vice-President responsible for coordinating matters under the item concerned, the sponsors, the co-facilitators of the ECOSOC processes for the current session, the Chair of the originating subsidiary body, or a facilitator designated by her, to undertake further consultations.

If there is a revised draft, that can be put to another round of silence procedure either (1) as Rev.1 to the L document or (2) in a form of an “oral revision” that describes the change from the original L document. The same procedure set out in paragraphs 2 to 5 above would be followed.

Please note that Economic and Social Council decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020 entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic does not address voting on draft decisions/resolutions. The President of the Council will follow any developments in the context of the General Assembly in this regard and will consult the Council, as appropriate.

6. At the first possible Economic and Social Council meeting, the Council will take note of the decisions adopted under the silence procedure. The Council will also be informed of additional co-sponsors communicated to the Secretariat before the deadline for the silence procedure and will hear the oral statement on programme budgetary implications, if any. At that meeting, delegations will also have the opportunity to deliver their statements in explanation of position or general statements in connection with the proposal, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practice of the Council.

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