



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

16 March 2020

Excellency,

I am writing further to my letter dated 12 March 2020 on the work of the Economic and Social Council in the near future and the decisions we need to take in light of the impact of COVID-19.

The situation regarding COVID-19 continues to evolve rapidly. On Friday, 13 March, the President of the General Assembly wrote to you about the forthcoming meetings of the General Assembly, including the planned joint event with ECOSOC on the Least Developed Countries. In his letter dated Wednesday, 11 March, he addressed the Youth Plenary. The Secretary-General has asked all Secretariat staff members, to telecommute and work remotely until Sunday, 12 April, unless their physical presence in the building is needed to carry out the essential work of the United Nations in New York and around the world. This decision, which is to be reviewed in three weeks, has a major impact on our planned meetings. The Bureaux of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development also met on 13 March and made further recommendations regarding their sessions.

In my letter dated 12 March, I proposed that three draft decisions, namely on the revised schedule of ECOSOC meetings, the theme of the humanitarian affairs segment; and the event on transition from relief to development, be considered by delegations through a silence procedure expiring at 5 p.m. on Monday, 16 March 2020.

Given the rapidly evolving situation, following consultation with the ECOSOC Bureau, it is clear that we need to remain flexible regarding the planned meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies in light of the latest and coming developments. I would therefore like to propose that the silence procedure proposed in my letter dated 12 March apply only to the decisions on the theme of the humanitarian affairs segment and on the theme of the transition event. I will continue updating the schedule of ECOSOC as the situation evolves, working in close cooperation with the Bureau of ECOSOC, the Chair of its subsidiary bodies and Member States. I will keep you informed and will revert with information and proposals.

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

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mona Juul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'u'.

Mona Juul  
President of the Economic and Social  
Council