



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

12 March 2020

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 11 March 2020 on preparedness and mitigation measures in relation to COVID-19, I wish to provide the following update regarding the work of the Economic and Social Council in the near-future.

As mentioned in that letter, the situation of COVID-19 is evolving rapidly and we will need to remain vigilant while adapting to the current situation. The impact of the Pandemic continues to increase in New York and around the world and there is a visible decrease in the presence of delegations and the Secretariat at UN Headquarters in recent days.

After consulting with the ECOSOC Bureau and the Co-Facilitators that I have appointed on the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up and the ministerial declaration of the HLPF/high-level segment of ECOSOC, I have decided not to convene physical meetings or informal consultations of the Council for the next two weeks.

In my letter dated 11 March, I announced the intention to schedule a formal meeting of the Council in the afternoon of Monday, 16 March, to decide on a revised schedule of ECOSOC meetings and to consider draft decisions on the theme of the humanitarian affairs segment and on the transition event. These decisions are being presented following widespread consultations conducted by the Vice-President on the humanitarian affairs segment and agreement reached at the level of the ECOSOC Bureau on adjustments to the ECOSOC calendar as well as for the humanitarian affairs segment and the transition event. In the current circumstances, in lieu of convening a plenary meeting, I would like to propose that the draft decisions, which are attached to this letter, be considered by delegations through a **silence procedure expiring on Monday, 16 March 2020 at 5 p.m.**

If no comments are received on the draft decisions by that time, the proposals will be considered as provisionally agreed. The Council will then proceed to formally adopt these decisions in a plenary meeting at a later date.

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

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I will also continue to consult and update the ECOSOC Bureau. The situation continues to evolve rapidly, and further adaptations may be needed.

Allow me to reiterate my solidarity with and condolences to the people and countries affected by COVID-19 and the heroic efforts of health workers responding to the Pandemic.

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, flowing style with a large initial 'M' and 'J'.

Mona Juul
President of the Economic and Social
Council