



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

3 April 2020

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 1 April 2020, transmitting a proposal enabling the Economic and Social Council to adopt decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was placed under silence procedure until 3 April 2020, at 5 p.m., it is my pleasure to inform you that the silence procedure has concluded without objections.

Accordingly, 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” is considered adopted by the Council and is in effect from 5:01 p.m. today, Friday, 3 April 2020. We will take note of this decision at the next plenary meeting of the Economic and Social Council at United Nations Headquarters.

Please also find attached comments received from a member of the Council regarding the decision.

Let me take this opportunity to once again 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mona Juul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mona" and the last name "Juul" clearly distinguishable.

Mona Juul
President of the
Economic and Social Council

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



556 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
TEL NO. (212) 764-1300

Letter no. 000056 - 2020

02 April 2020

Excellency,

I wish to refer to your letter of 01 April 2020 on the draft decision to enable ECOSOC to adopt decisions under a silence procedure during the prevailing extraordinary circumstances.

We recognize the extraordinary circumstances and unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic that have necessitated consideration of adopting decisions under a silence procedure mechanism.

In view of this, the Philippines can support the draft decision. At the same time, we wish to underline that the silence procedure is the appropriate method to deal only with procedural issues or matters on which there is clear consensus. For matters that clearly require discussion or negotiations, consideration of said matters should be deferred until an appropriate time when an agreed procedure for negotiations or informal consultations can be agreed upon, when delegations can return to the UN and conduct face-to-face meetings.

We also wish to seek clarification on how the silence procedure would work if there is an objection to a draft resolution or proposals to amend the same.

We reaffirm our full support and cooperation with you and the ECOSOC Bureau. We commend and truly appreciate your commendable work in these critical times.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kira Christianne D. Azucena".

H.E. Ms. KIRA CHRISTIANNE D. AZUCENA
Charge d'affaires a.i.



H.E. MS. MONA JUUL

Permanent Representative of Norway
President of ECOSOC

Email: mona.juul@mfa.no; Susan.eckey@mfa.no; Sunniva.Helen.Abrahamsen@mfa.no

Cc:

H.E. MR. MUNIR AKRAM

Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Vice-President of ECOSOC

Email: pakistan@un.int

All Member States and Observer States of the United Nations