



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1 June 2020

Subject: Draft resolution entitled “Further revised working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies” (E/2020/L.8)

Excellency,

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020, by which the Council was authorized to adopt decisions through a silence procedure, and its decision 2020/206 of 22 May 2020, by which the authorization was extended to the sessional bodies and subsidiary organs of the Council, it is my pleasure to place under silence procedure, until 10 a.m. on Thursday, 4 June 2020, the enclosed draft resolution entitled “Further revised working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies”, issued as document E/2020/L.8, under agenda item 2 (Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters), and available on the Official Document System (<https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp>) in all official languages.

An oral statement of programme budget implications issued by the Secretariat in connection with draft resolution E/2020/L.8 is circulated with this letter and will be posted on the e-deleGATE portal under ECOSOC announcements. Members of the Council wishing to make statements in explanations of vote/position or non-members of the Council wishing to make general statements in connection with the draft resolution are invited to refer to the procedure annexed to this letter.

Objections to draft resolution E/2020/L.8 by a member of the Council should be done via a letter or note verbale addressed to the President of ECOSOC. Such correspondence should be sent via e-mail to Susan.eckey@mfa.no / Sunniva.Helen.Abrahamsen@mfa.no. Please clearly indicate the title of the draft resolution in the subject line of the communication.

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.

Mona Juul

President of the Economic and Social Council

All Permanent Representatives of States members of the Economic and Social Council

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

ANNEX

Explanation of vote/position

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/position 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 document symbol in the subject line of the e-mail to be sent to the Economic and Social Council Affairs Branch, DGACM (Catalina De Leon, email: leonc@un.org).
- 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 the 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 document symbol in the subject line of the communication.



Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council

Further revised working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies

The Economic and Social Council,

Expressing solidarity with Member States that are fighting the coronavirus disease (COVID-19),

Recalling its resolution [2020/3](#) of 14 April 2020 on the revised working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies, its resolution [2020/1](#) of 25 July 2019 on the working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Council and its resolution [2019/11](#) of 7 June 2019 on the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2020 and 2021,

Taking into account the continued impact of COVID-19 on the working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies,

Recalling its decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020, by which the Council was authorized to adopt decisions through a silence procedure, and its decision 2020/206 of 22 May 2020, by which the authorization was extended to the sessional bodies and subsidiary organs of the Council,

Encouraging Member States to continue to make use of virtual platforms, where appropriate, to conduct preparatory meetings and informal consultations,

Noting the informal meeting of the forum on financing for development follow-up held on 23 April 2020 and the informal meetings of the operational activities for development segment of the Council held from 19 to 22 and on 27 May 2020, using virtual platforms,

Noting also the informal meetings of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration held on 13, 15, 18, 21, 27 and 28 May 2020, using a virtual platform,



1. *Decides* to further adjust the working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council, for meetings scheduled to be held in June and July, as follows:

(a) The following meetings of the Council will be held as informal meetings through the use of a virtual platform:

(i) Informal meeting of the forum on financing for development follow-up on the theme “Financing a sustainable recovery from COVID-19” (Tuesday, 2 June 2020);

(ii) Management segment meeting(s) (Wednesday, 3 June 2020);

(iii) Council event to discuss the transition from relief to development (Monday, 8 June 2020);

(iv) Humanitarian affairs segment (Tuesday, 9 June, to Thursday, 11 June 2020);

(b) The dedicated management meeting to fill remaining vacancies in subsidiary bodies of the Council and related bodies for which secret balloting is required will be held as soon as feasible when conditions allow for the convening of an in-person meeting of the Council at United Nations Headquarters;

(c) The following meetings and forums of the Council will be held on the dates decided in its resolution [2020/1](#), in an adjusted format, as applicable, with final modalities to be decided by the Bureau of the Council, following consultations with Member States, taking into account the possibility of meeting at United Nations Headquarters in July and the availability of conference services, as follows:

(i) A further meeting of the operational activities for development segment will be held, with the timing and modalities to be decided by the Bureau of the Council;

(ii) Integration segment (Monday, 6 July 2020);

(iii) High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council (Tuesday, 7 July, to Monday, 13 July 2020);

(iv) High-level segment of the Council, including the three-day ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council (Tuesday, 14 July, to Friday, 17 July 2020);

(v) Remaining meetings of the management segment (Tuesday, 21 July, and Wednesday, 22 July 2020);

(vi) Organizational session regarding the programme of work of the Council from July 2020 to July 2021 (Thursday, 23 July 2020);

(d) The youth forum will be deferred to the 2021 session of the Council;¹

2. *Also decides*, following consultations with the Chairs of the bodies concerned, to adjust the working arrangements for subsidiary bodies of the Council meeting in New York, as follows:

(a) Should conditions allow for the convening of in-person meetings at United Nations Headquarters, and taking into account the availability of conference services, short procedural meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development will be held on a date to be decided, before 21 July 2020, in order to adopt procedural and other decisions; should the convening of in-person meetings not be possible, these bodies may consider holding

¹ Subject to the decision of the Council on the working arrangements for its 2021 session.

informal meetings using a virtual platform and should consider proposals for adoption through a silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2020/206;

(b) The United Nations Forum on Forests will not hold a meeting of its fifteenth session during the 2020 session of the Council and will consider proposals through a silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2020/206;

(c) Following consultations with the Chairs of the bodies concerned, the meetings of these subsidiary bodies of the Council will be held as follows:

(i) The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters will hold informal meetings in June and July 2020 using a virtual platform and will take decisions remotely through a procedure to be agreed by the Committee;

(ii) Should conditions allow for the convening of in-person meetings at United Nations Headquarters, and taking into account the availability of conference services, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will, on an exceptional basis, hold its 2020 resumed session in August 2020, during the 2021 session of the Council;

3. *Decides* to keep the present working arrangements under review.
