



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

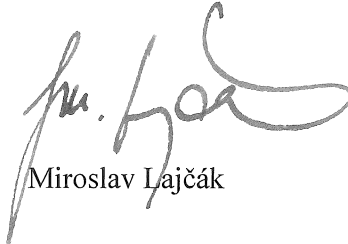
29 June 2018

Excellency,

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/225 of 20 December 2017, recalling its decision of 71/219 of 21 December 2016 to convene a High-level interactive dialogue on sand and dust storms during its 72nd session. In this context, I have the honour to invite you to the High-level interactive dialogue that will be held on 16 July 2018 from 3:00-6:00 PM in the ECOSOC Chamber. The provisional programme of the dialogue is attached.

The High-level interactive dialogue will count with the participation of Member States, representatives of the UN system and other relevant stakeholders. The dialogue aims to address action-oriented recommendations and challenges faced by those affected countries, including ways to improve policy coordination at the global level to address those challenges in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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



Miroslav Lajčák

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

HIGH-LEVEL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON SAND AND DUST STORMS

UNHQ, New York
Monday, 16 July 2018
ECOSOC Chamber

PROGRAMME

Opening Segment	
3:00-3:15 PM	<p>Video presentation on the global status of sand and dust storms</p> <p>Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly</p>
Panel Discussion on Sand and Dust Storms	
3:15-4:00 PM	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. John Knox, Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E. Dr. Reza Ardakanian, Minister of Energy, the Islamic Republic of Iran ○ Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) ○ Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) ○ Ms. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) ○ Dr. Wenjian Zhang, Assistant Secretary General, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) ○ Mr. Charles Kelly, Expert
Interactive Discussion	
4:00-6:00 PM	<p>Interactive discussion with the participation of Member States, representatives of the UN System and other relevant stakeholders</p>