



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 March 2019

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to forward herewith a letter dated 27 March 2019 from H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore and H.E. Mrs. Bergdís Ellertsdóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations on the date and modalities related to the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The co-facilitators are convening the first meeting of the intergovernmental process on Monday, 8 April 2019, at 3:00 p.m., in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. The co-facilitators are also sharing a background note on the previous commemorations of the United Nations.

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

M. ESPINOSA
Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | NEW YORK



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ICELAND TO THE UN

27 March 2019

Excellencies,

You will recall that the President of the General Assembly informed all delegations on 13 February 2019 of her decision to appoint us as co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations on the date and modalities related to the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2020. In her letter, the President of the General Assembly also said that the 75th anniversary “could constitute a unique opportunity to reiterate our collective attachment to the Organization and multilateralism”. We thank the President of the General Assembly for entrusting both of us with this important responsibility.

In this regard, we would like to invite you to an informal open-ended meeting on **Monday, 8 April 2019 at 3PM** in the **ECOSOC Chamber**. The President of the General Assembly has kindly agreed to address the meeting. At this first meeting, we look forward to listening to your views and ideas on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary. For your background and reference, we have prepared a note on previous commemorations of the United Nations. We further invite you to reflect on the following framing questions and share your views with all members at the informal meeting:

- a) What would be the modalities of the commemoration; in particular the dates, theme and level of participation? (**Note:** 26 June marks the signing of the UN Charter, 24 October is United Nations Day, and the 75th General Assembly session is scheduled to start on 22 September 2020)
- b) How do we make the commemoration of the 75th anniversary meaningful, forward-looking and relevant to people around the world?
- c) How do we engage and inspire all segments of society, in particular youth, to participate in the commemoration?
- d) Would the commemoration lead to the adoption of any agreed outcome, and if so, what could be form of an outcome; i.e. a resolution, declaration or some other document?

Taking into account the views expressed by all member states at our first and subsequent informal meetings, it is our intention to prepare a zero draft resolution in order to facilitate further discussions and build consensus. It is also our intention to finalize any draft resolution and complete our work by end May.

As co-facilitators, we are deeply committed to an open, transparent and inclusive process and we encourage all interested delegations to share their ideas or raise any concerns they may have with us directly. Should delegations or groups of delegations wish to schedule consultations with the co-facilitators, please contact the Mission of Singapore (Ms. Shuo Wang, wang_shuo@mfa.gov.sg) or the Mission of Iceland (Ms. Sesselja Sigurdardóttir, ss@mfa.is).

The 75th anniversary marks an important milestone not only for us as diplomats at the United Nations, but also for all our countries and for people around the world. We look forward to working with you and your Mission on this important subject.

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



Burhan Gafoor
Permanent Representative of Singapore
to the United Nations



Bergdís Ellertsdóttir
Permanent Representative of Iceland
to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers of the United Nations
New York

Background Note
Commemoration of past UN anniversaries

10th anniversary, 20-26 June 1955, San Francisco

- Seven-day commemoration, including four days of unofficial meetings presided over by the President of the General Assembly, A/RES/889(IX) A-B

25th anniversary, 24 October 1970, New York

“Peace, justice and progress”

- Commemorative Session of the General Assembly and a World Youth Assembly, A/RES/2499(XXIV)A-B
- Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the UN, A/RES/2627(XXV)

40th anniversary, 24 October 1985, New York

“United Nations for the Better World”

- Commemorative session of the General Assembly for a short period, culminating on 24 October 1985, A/RES/39/161A-B
- Outcome document “Proclamation of the International Year of Peace”, A/RES/40/3

50th anniversary, 22-24 October 1995, New York

“We the peoples of the United Nations ... united for a better world”

- Special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly, A/RES/48/215 and A/RES/49/12
- Declaration on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the UN, A/RES/50/6

60th anniversary, 14-16 September 2005, New York

- High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, A/RES/58/291, A/RES/59/145, and A/RES/59/291

70th anniversary, 1-2 October 2015, New York

“Maintenance of international peace and security”

- High-level thematic debate during the high-level segment of the 70th UNGA, A/RES/69/316
- Declaration on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN, A/RES/70/3