



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 February 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to forward herewith a letter, dated 7 February 2020, from H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar, and H.E. Ms. Anna-Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden, the co-facilitators leading the intergovernmental negotiations on the Declaration for the Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The co-facilitators are convening a first informal consultation meeting on 21 February 2020 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber and from 3 to 6 p.m. in Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The co-facilitators also herewith share a “food for thought”-paper with a set of possible topics for discussion.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, flowing script.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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



**Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations, New York**

7 February 2020

Excellency,

We are honoured to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations on the declaration on the “Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations”, as contained in General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/299, adopted on 14 June 2019.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution, the General Assembly has decided “to adopt by consensus at the high-level meeting on 21 September 2020 a concise, substantive, forward-looking and unifying declaration that captures the collective commitment of Member States to multilateralism and to the United Nations and their shared vision for a common future”. We are therefore pleased to convene a first informal exchange on the possible elements of the declaration. The President of the General Assembly has kindly agreed to address the meeting, which will be held on 21 February 2020 from 10:00 to 13:00 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber and from 15:00 to 18:00 in Conference Room 2. It will be open to all Member States and Permanent Observers.

In preparation for this first informal consultation, and taking into account time constraints, a “food for thought”- paper with a set of possible topics for discussion is attached to this invitation. The questions are intended to help focus our upcoming discussion, but you are also encouraged to provide any ideas and concrete suggestions that may go beyond these proposed topics. Please note that, due to the informal nature of this meeting, there will not be any formal speakers list.

We very much look forward to hearing your thoughts and specific recommendations at the meeting. We are deeply committed to an open, inclusive and transparent process and would like to take this opportunity to affirm our availability for consultations throughout the whole process.

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

Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations
New York

Anna-Karin Eneström
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the United Nations
New York

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

“Food for thought”-paper for the UN75 Declaration
— **Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism** —

Acknowledging Achievements

- 1) Reflecting on the past 75 years, what are the main achievements of the United Nations worth acknowledging? What are the significant contributions of the organization and its staff to the work within the three pillars of the organization, i.e. peace and security, development and human rights?

Looking Ahead

- 2) In building the United Nations we need to ensure the future we want, what are the main strategic measures needed over the next 25 years (by 2045 - UN100), to strengthen multilateralism and reinvigorate the functioning of global governance? How can UN75 serve as a springboard for building a more inclusive, responsive and effective world body to better address our common challenges, threats, as well as opportunities of the 21st century?

Responding to Major Global Challenges

- 3) In defining today's most fundamental global challenges, we need to consider the challenges raised by the Secretary-General earlier this year, namely: i) ongoing geostrategic tensions and conflicts within fragile states and regions, as well as new and emerging forms of violence; ii) the climate crisis; iii) perceived deep and growing global mistrust, linked *inter alia* to increasing inequalities; and iv) maximizing the benefits and managing the disruptive and dangerous aspects of new technologies. How is the UN and its organs standing up to these new challenges?

Delivering on Commitments

- 4) How can we adapt and innovate to deliver better on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter to further strengthen governance and collective action across borders in light of ongoing and new challenges (*e.g. through pacific settlement of disputes; ensuring inclusive, open, and fair decision-making; upholding international law and human rights; strengthening international institutions and regional arrangements*)?

Building Consensus and Mobilizing for Change

- 5) How do we, during the “Decade of Action”, advance the implementation of Agenda 2030 to ensure that no one is left behind? How can the UN system better maximize the resources, ideas, networks and capabilities of and partner with a diverse range of actors from academia, civil society, business community and other stakeholders? Having listened to the UN75 Inaugural Launch Event – what can we do to further strengthen the rights, empowerment and participation of women and youth?