



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 March 2020

Excellency,

I wish to inform that in furtherance to my letters of 10 and 13 March 2020, and in light of recent guidance severely limiting the number of persons attending in-person meetings as a result of the continuing evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have decided to:

- i. Postpone the Commemorative meeting on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, scheduled for 23 March 2020;
- ii. Postpone the Commemorative meeting on the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, scheduled for 24 March 2020;
- iii. Postpone the informal meeting of the General Assembly to hear a briefing on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, scheduled for 25 March 2020;
- iv. Postpone the eleventh session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), scheduled for 6 April 2020 (see enclosed letter from Chair of OEWGA);
- v. Postpone the plenary meeting on Improving Global Safety, scheduled for 16 April 2020; and
- vi. Cancel all in-person meetings of the General Assembly mandated processes for the 74th session scheduled to be held between now and 17 April 2020. These processes will conduct their activities via alternative mechanisms.

Regarding postponements that require the General Assembly's concurrence, given that a plenary meeting to adopt key decisions planned for the end of this week cannot be held, I am attaching, herewith, a:

- i. Draft decision to postpone the upcoming substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission to a period in 2021 to be decided by the Assembly, at its 75<sup>th</sup> session. Given that this draft decision was recommended to all regional groups and there were no objections, I wish to submit it for comments until 6 p.m. on 19 March 2020. Any comments and/or questions, should be directed to Eenam Gambhir, Senior Adviser at [eenam.gambhir@un.org](mailto:eenam.gambhir@un.org); and

- ii. Letter from the Chair of the International Law Commission proposing a draft decision to postpone the upcoming substantive session of the Commission is submitted herewith, for comments, until 6 p.m. on 19 March 2020. Any comments and/or questions should be directed to Xiaomei Li, Senior Adviser at [xiaomei.li@un.org](mailto:xiaomei.li@un.org).

I would like to inform you that my Office has transitioned to virtual meetings. We look forward to the virtual meeting with Member States on 18 March 2020, at 1 p.m. to engage on issues concerning the technical aspects of business continuity and meetings management. I am also glad to mention that the Fifth Committee has successfully started conducting informal meetings via the United Nation's Video Conference Tool (VCT).

In conclusion, discussions are ongoing regarding other mandated events by the Assembly scheduled to take place after 17 April 2020. We will continue to look at business continuity with the General Committee, with focus on alternative ways to adopt key decisions, rather than through in-person meetings of the Assembly.

I would also like to avail of this opportunity to 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.



Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 100 (b)

### **Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: report of the Disarmament Commission**

#### **Draft decision**

#### **Disarmament Commission**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its decision 74/511 of 12 December 2019, in which it decided that the Disarmament Commission will hold a substantive session for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2020, namely from 6 to 24 April

*Noting with concern* the situation concerning the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19),

*Decides* to postpone the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission to a period in 2021 to be decided by the Assembly, at its 75<sup>th</sup> session.



# United Nations Nations Unies

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REFERENCE:

16 March 2020

Excellency,

We write to you concerning the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission (ILC).

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/186 of 18 December 2019, the seventy-second session of the ILC is scheduled to be held from 27 April to 5 June and from 6 July to 7 August 2020 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

However, in light of the situation concerning the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), we, the current Chair of the seventy-first session of the Commission and the Chair designate for the seventy-second session of the Commission, held informal consultations with the Bureau and members of the Commission on 12 March 2020 to consider the postponement of the first part of the session. It was agreed that the first part of the session will be postponed to the earliest possible available date to be decided by the Assembly. It was also agreed that the Commission should meet for an additional week during its second part, and we have been informed by the United Nations Office at Geneva that conference services will be available for this purpose from 29 June to 3 July 2020.

In this regard, please find attached the draft decision for adoption by the General Assembly. I kindly request that a formal meeting of the General Assembly be convened as soon as possible, and no later than 31 March 2020, to adopt the draft decision.

As the ILC is at a critical stage, having six topics on its current programme, including two topics at second reading stage and one topic at first reading stage, and important decisions pending concerning potential new topics, we also kindly request that your office, in consultation with the Secretariat, give special consideration to the Commission when allocating new dates for the seventy-second session, so that we may continue our work as soon as possible.

H.E. Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande  
President of the United Nations General Assembly

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



Pavel Šturma  
Chair  
Seventy-first session of the  
International Law Commission



Mahmoud D. Hmoud  
Chair designate  
Seventy-second session of the  
International Law Commission

Enc.

# United Nations Nations Unies

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Seventy-fourth session  
Agenda item 79  
Report of the International Law Commission  
on the work of its seventy-first session

The General Assembly,

*Recalling* its resolution 74/186 of 18 December 2019, in which it decided that the International Law Commission would hold its seventy-second session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 27 April to 5 June and from 6 July to 7 August 2020,

*Taking into account* the situation concerning the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19),

*Decides* that the first part of the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission, scheduled to be held from 27 April to 5 June 2020, be postponed to the earliest possible available date to be decided by the General Assembly,

*Decides* also that the second part of the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission shall be extended by one week such that it will be held from 29 June to 7 August 2020.



*Permanent Mission  
of the  
Argentine Republic  
to the  
United Nations*

ENAUN 209/2020

New York, 17 March 2020

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons, which was established by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/182, of 21 December 2010.

Upon request of your Office and taking into account the guidance of the Center for Disease Control in light of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic situation, I would like to inform that the eleventh session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, that was scheduled for 6 April 2020, will be held at a later date to be announced in due course. In the meantime, consultations regarding the draft recommendations will continue remotely. Delegates are invited to send their inputs on the Rev.2 to [euo@mrecic.gov.ar](mailto:euo@mrecic.gov.ar).

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.



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Martín García Moritán

CHAIR

Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing

To:  
H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande  
President of the General Assembly  
NEW YORK