



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 March 2020

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter dated 17 March 2020, I engaged with the General Committee on approaches to continuing the important work of the General Assembly in light of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic. From my consultations with the General Committee, it was quite clear that we all agreed that, under the prevailing extraordinary circumstances, the General Assembly has to be able to take essential decisions related to the Organisation.

Following the aforementioned consultations, it is my pleasure to share the enclosed proposal (draft decision) enabling the General Assembly to adopt essential decisions under a silence procedure.

The enclosed draft decision is hereby placed under silence procedure, until 12 p.m. (noon) on Friday, 27 March 2020. Comments and exceptions should be directed to Ms. Mari Skaare, Chef de Cabinet (OPGA) at mari.skaare@un.org

I 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.

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

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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

PROPOSAL – draft decision - Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic

The General Assembly,

Noting with concern the situation concerning the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the limitations recommended on meetings within the United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19,

Authorizes the President of the General Assembly, where, in his view, a plenary meeting of the General Assembly is not practicable due to the coronavirus pandemic, to circulate, after consultation with the General Committee, draft decisions of the General Assembly to all Member States under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours,

Decides that, if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the General Assembly shall take note of the decision at its first plenary meeting held after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstances allow, and that this decision on the procedure for taking of decisions of the General Assembly shall be in effect until the end of May unless extended through this procedure.