



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 March 2020

Excellency,

Reference is made to my letter dated 17 March 2020, wherein I sought the advice of Members of the General Committee on approaches to continuing the important work of the General Assembly during this most challenging of times, particularly as it relates to taking key decisions concerning our Organisation.

I thank you for your views on how to conduct the business of the General Assembly. From the comments received, it is quite clear that we all agree that the General Assembly has to adapt and be able to take key decisions and perform necessary functions. Taking into account the comments received, I am hereby sharing the enclosed revised draft decision. Any additional views should be directed to Ms. Mari Skaare, Chef de Cabinet (OPGA) via email at mari.skaare@un.org by 6 p.m. on Monday, 23 March 2020. Thereafter, I intend to circulate the proposal to all Member States.

As we work together to overcome this global challenge, I shall continue to consult with all Member States. I also avail of this opportunity to express my solidarity with Member States of the General Committee 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, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande'.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Members of the General Committee
New York

PROPOSAL – Revised 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 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 such plenary meeting.