



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 March 2020

Excellency,

Considering the evolving situation regarding the continued spread of COVID-19, the local authorities have issued guidance severely limiting the number of persons attending in-person meetings. In light of the current situation, I sought advice from the United Nations Medical Director, and I have decided that in-person formal meetings of the General Assembly should not be organised at this time. It has, thus, become imperative to explore alternative means to conduct the Assembly's work, particularly as it relates to taking administrative and budgetary decisions related to the Organisation.

Accordingly, given your role as a member of the General Committee, I would welcome your advice on how to conduct the proceedings of the General Assembly in the coming weeks. Please consider the:

- i. Possibility of the General Assembly adopting essential decisions under a silence procedure (see proposed draft decision in Annex A); and
- ii. Possibility of adopting a simple procedure for postponement of meetings (see proposed draft decision in Annex B).

I would be grateful if any advice and comments on these proposals can be received by 6:00 p.m. on 19 March 2020. Such should be forwarded to Mari Skaare, Chef de Cabinet, at mari.skaare@un.org

I wish to 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

ANNEX A

PROPOSAL – Draft decision enabling the General Assembly to adopt a decision to allow certain essential decisions to be taken under a silence procedure.

The General Assembly,

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

Authorises the President of the General Assembly, where an in-person meeting of the General Assembly should not be organized, to circulate to all Member States and place a draft decision under a silence procedure,

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 formal meeting.

ANNEX B

PROPOSAL – Draft decision enabling the General Assembly to adopt a decision to allow certain essential decisions to be taken under a silence procedure.

The General Assembly,

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

Authorises the President of the General Assembly, following coordination with the Chairs and Bureaux of the relevant entities, to adjust the dates of the meetings of such entities and inform Member States of those adjustments,

Decides that the General Assembly shall take note of these adjustments at its first formal meeting.