



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

30 March 2020

Subject: Seventy-second session of the International Law Commission

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 17 March 2020, in which I had circulated for comments a draft decision to postpone the upcoming session of the International Law Commission and in accordance with General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020 entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic”, it is my pleasure to place under silence procedure, until Thursday, 2 April 2020, at 6:00 p.m., the enclosed draft decision entitled “Seventy-second session of the International Law Commission”, issued as document A/74/L.45, under agenda item 79 [Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-first session].

In light of the fact that the General Assembly, at its 2nd plenary meeting on 20 September 2019, decided to allocate agenda item 79 to the Sixth Committee and concluded its consideration of the item at its 51st plenary meeting, on 18 December 2019, it is necessary that the General Assembly also takes a procedural decision to reopen consideration of agenda item 79 and to consider it directly in the General Assembly. Thus, this requisite procedural decision is also placed under the silence procedure referred to above.

I have been informed that an oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft decision (A/74/L.45) will be posted on the e-delegate portal, under plenary announcements. Delegations wishing to make statements in explanations of vote are invited to refer to the procedure annexed to this letter.

Objections to the draft decision (A/74/L.45) and the proposal to reopen consideration of agenda item 79 as well as to consider it directly in the General Assembly should be directed to Xiaomei Li, Senior Adviser, at xiaomei.li@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.



Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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

ANNEX
Explanation of vote/position

Member States wishing to make an explanation of vote/position may do so in any of the following ways, without prejudice to the delegations' rights under the rules of procedure to explain their vote/position at the first plenary meeting to be held in order for the General Assembly to take note of the decision after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstance allow:

- Option 1: Electronic versions of the statements in explanation of vote/position will be posted on the [e-delegate](#) portal, under Plenary announcements. Please indicate the title of the draft decision/resolution in the subject line of the e-mail to be sent to Ms. Cassandra Price Taveras (email: pricec@un.org) in the General Assembly Affairs Branch.
- Option 2: Member States can address their communication to the President of the General Assembly (to be sent to Mari Skaare, Chef de Cabinet, mari.skaare@un.org), which can then be circulated in a subsequent letter from the President to all Member States. Please clearly indicate the title of the draft decision/resolution in the subject line of the communication.
- Option 3: Member States can also address a communication to the Secretary-General requesting the issuance of their communication.
 - Such communications should be addressed to the Secretary-General and signed by the permanent representative or chargé d'affaires, a.i., of the permanent mission to the United Nations.
 - The communications should indicate the session of the General Assembly, and the number and title of the agenda item under which circulation is requested, using the agenda of current session of the Assembly.
 - A scanned copy of the original signed communications (PDF version) as well as their Microsoft Word versions should be sent together to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (sgcentral@un.org) with a copy to gaab@un.org and dms@un.org to facilitate processing. If versions in any other United Nations official languages are available, they should be included electronically with a clear indication of the original language and/or which language versions are to be used for reference only.