



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 March 2020

Subject: Scope, modalities, format and organization of the summit on biodiversity

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 25 March 2020, through which I transmitted a letter from H. E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledón, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, and H. E. Ms. Mariangela Zappia, Permanent Representative of Italy, the co-facilitators overseeing the preparatory process, including the modalities of the Summit on Biodiversity, informing that the silence procedure on the draft of the modalities for the Summit on Biodiversity has concluded with no objections.

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 Tuesday 31 March, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., the enclosed draft resolution entitled “Scope, modalities, format and organization of the summit on biodiversity”.

The aforementioned draft resolution will be issued in other official languages on Monday, 30 March 2020, as document A/74/L.49, under agenda item 19 (f) (Convention on Biological Diversity). I have been informed that the adoption of the draft resolution (A/74/L.49) would not give rise to any budgetary implications.

Delegations wishing to make statements in explanations of vote are invited to refer to the procedure annexed to this letter. Objections to the draft resolution (A/74/L.49) should be directed to Toni-Shae Freckleton, Senior Adviser at toni-shae.freckleton@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, flowing script.

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 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.