



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 April 2020

Subject: Draft decision entitled “Interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature” (A/74/L.46)

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter dated 7 April 2020, 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”, placing draft decision A/74/L.46 entitled “Interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature” under silence procedure until 13 April 2020, at 3 p.m., it is my pleasure to inform you that the silence procedure has concluded without objections.

Accordingly, the decision is considered adopted by the Assembly as decision 74/547 and is in effect from 3:01 p.m. today, Monday, 13 April 2020. We will take note of decision 74/547 at the next plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held at the United Nations Headquarters.

Also find enclosed the explanation of position received from a Member State regarding this decision.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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



**EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF ECUADOR
ADOPTION OF UNGA RESOLUTION A/74/L.46
“INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON HARMONY WITH NATURE”**

United Nations, April 13, 2020

Mr. President,

Ecuador is joining consensus on General Assembly draft resolution A/74/L.26, entitled “Interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature”, since we are conscious that the interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature, scheduled to be held during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, is unfeasible due the pandemic of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

We take this opportunity to restate that, at these uncertain times, it is of the utmost relevance for countries and people around the world to reflect on the importance of a harmonious relationship between human beings and nature.

Harmony with nature is intrinsic to the achievement of sustainable development, and in line with the global efforts to protect biodiversity, change consumption and production patterns, combat the adverse effects of climate change, end plastic pollution, build resilient communities and reduce inequalities for current and future generations.

Ecuador recognizes the rights of nature, fully respecting its existence, the maintenance and regeneration of its life cycles, and its restoration in case of degradation or contamination.

During the upcoming celebration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2020, let's be aware that the current pandemic is linked to the health of our ecosystems. Let's be conscious that disruptions of biodiversity and ecosystems, and the abuse and illegal trade of wildlife, can increase the transmission of infectious diseases, like COVID-19. And, let's find ways to cooperate and work together to tackle habitat and biodiversity loss, and to protect our common home.

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
Y MOVILIDAD HUMANA

MISIÓN PERMANENTE DEL ECUADOR
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
NUEVA YORK



We must ensure the appropriate use of natural resources. The conservation of biodiversity makes effective the exercise of several human rights, to water, health, food, life, the healthy environment, recreation, education, development, among others. We call for strict compliance with all international agreements in favor of human beings and nature.

We are confident that during the upcoming months, technology will allow virtual discussions on the protection of nature and, that when we get through the current situation, we will continue to have interactive dialogues and the sharing of good practices on harmony with nature within the United Nations.

Thank you,