



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 April 2020

Excellency,

The evolving COVID-19 pandemic has impacted virtually every facet of human endeavor and has impressed upon us that solidarity is the most effective response to overcoming this unprecedented challenge.

I thank you for your support to the General Assembly, including support to my Office, as we continue to carry out essential work and ensure business continuity through 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*”. Since the adoption of this extraordinary decision, 14 decisions/resolutions have been adopted, while 4 more decisions/resolutions are currently under silence procedure in accordance with the aforementioned decision.

It is instructive to note that Member States have, thus far, initiated a number of COVID-19-related decisions/resolutions. From my engagement with Member States and consultations with the General Committee, it is evident that we all agree that there is a need for more coordination in our response to the ongoing global crisis. Clearly, we need to be more decisive, coordinated and unified in our pronouncements on the measures to mitigate the spread of the virus and strengthen international coordination to overcome this global challenge.

In this regard, it is my pleasure to announce the appointment of H.E. Mrs. Adela Raz, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, as co-coordinators for the General Assembly on COVID-19-related initiatives. The co-coordinators will engage with Member States on COVID-19-related initiatives in order to, inter alia, facilitate the exchange of views, coordinate approaches and initiatives, as well as leverage the influence of the Assembly to effectively advocate for measures aimed at defeating COVID-19, while mitigating its social and economic impact.

I thank Ambassador Raz and Ambassador Šimonović for accepting this very important responsibility. I trust that you will extend your full support and cooperation to them.

Meanwhile, I commend all delegates for adapting to novel working methods during this trying time. I urge all Member States to continue to engage widely with a view to strengthening coordination within the General Assembly on common initiatives. Also, my Office will continue to update Member States via webinars on a weekly basis.

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