

**Постоянный представитель
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при Организации
Объединенных Наций**



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No. 1214 /n

New York, “²” April 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 30 March 2020 placing under the silence procedure the draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly “Global Solidarity to Fight COVID-19” (A/74/L.52) presented by a group of countries under agenda item 123 “Strengthening of the United Nations system”.

In this regard, we would like to inform you that the delegation of the Russian Federation does not object to the abovementioned draft resolution and is supportive of the key messages contained therein.

Having said that, we would like to make the following comments as explanation of our position with regard to the draft resolution in question.

1. Referring to preambular paragraph 3, we acknowledge that the poorest and most vulnerable may be hardest hit by the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in our view, the paragraph lacks recognition of the fact that all people –

H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
President of the 74th session
of the United Nations General Assembly
New York

aged and young, wealthy and poor – and societies at large are susceptible to the negative effects of that unprecedented threat, as the statistical data on the global prevalence of the said disease provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) clearly shows.

2. With reference to preambular paragraph 4 concerning the global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19, we would like to reiterate that the key coordinating role in these efforts should remain with the World Health Organization as the “co-ordinating authority on international health work” in line with Article 2 (a) of the WHO Constitution.

3. We regret to note that a number of important issues critical for effective fighting the pandemic were left out of the scope of the resolution in spite of the relevant calls which were made by the UN Secretary-General and which should not be avoided by the UN GA.

We would like to ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as an official explanation of position of the Russian Federation on the draft resolution entitled “Global Solidarity to Fight COVID-19” (A/74/L.52) under agenda item 123 “Strengthening of the United Nations system”.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Vassily Nebenzia