



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 April 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a letter dated 9 April 2020, from H.E. Mrs. Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar, and H.E. Mrs. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden, the co-facilitators overseeing the intergovernmental negotiations on the Declaration for the Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The aforementioned letter conveys an elements paper outlining the most critical issues expressed by Member States in the consultations held thus far, as well as a possible structure of the Declaration. The co-facilitators are requesting written inputs/comments on the elements paper by 24 April 2020.

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 dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a flourish.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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



**Permanent Mission of Sweden  
to the United Nations, New York**

9 April 2020

Excellency,

On the basis of the views expressed by Member States during the informal consultations held on 21 February 2020, we are pleased to share with you the attached elements paper addressing the most critical issues, as seen by Member States, in the context of the Declaration for the Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. The paper also contains a possible structure of the declaration, based on the views expressed by Member States.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges to the work of the United Nations. Given the current situation, the informal consultations on the elements paper will not be convened in person as initially anticipated. Instead, we kindly invite all delegations to send us the inputs/comments that would have been delivered at the informal consultations. We would appreciate to receive your submissions in writing by 24 April 2020. Submissions should be sent to Mr Jassim Al Maawda ([jmaawda@mofa.gov.qa](mailto:jmaawda@mofa.gov.qa)) and Ms Cecilia Anderberg ([cecilia.anderberg@gov.se](mailto:cecilia.anderberg@gov.se)).

Upon receiving your written comments, we will be working towards sharing a zero draft Declaration, capturing the general agreement on the main issues, by the beginning of May 2020. Later in May 2020, at a date to be coordinated with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, we will aim to convene a virtual second informal consultation to discuss the zero draft.

As you will recall from our informal consultations on February 21, it was our intention to invite Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the United Nations seventy-fifth Anniversary, to brief Member States on the latest state of play regarding the UN Secretary-General's global conversation, launched in January 2020, to "learn from people across the world how the UN can improve in tackling the global challenges of our time." We are hopeful that the Special Adviser will be able to join our meeting in May.

We will do our best to make sure that the negotiations on the political declaration can move ahead effortlessly according to General Assembly resolution 73/299 entitled, "Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations", adopted on 14 June 2019.


We all find ourselves in very challenging circumstances. Many of the daily routines we took for granted some weeks ago are impossible today. We are facing a common threat that knows no borders. Rarely before has there been a greater need for multilateralism and international cooperation. Let us raise to this opportunity and strengthen our cooperation and the leading role of the UN.

We count on your support and active and constructive engagement, even more so in light of these dire circumstances.

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



Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the State of  
Qatar to the United Nations  
New York



Anna Karin Eneström  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Sweden  
to the United Nations  
New York

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



## **Elements paper for the UN75 Declaration**

### ***Section 1 – Acknowledging achievements and looking ahead***

This introductory part of the declaration should point out that the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is not a time for celebration, but a moment for Head of States and Governments to take joint action in response to the multifaceted and interconnected challenges we are facing. This section should note that international cooperation and solidarity for recovery and building resilience is more important than ever, and that the world is coming together to ensure the future we want, and the UN we need. It should address the devastating effects of COVID-19 and the need to strengthen international cooperation, not only to meet the acute threat, but also to enhance our global resilience for future pandemics.

The section should, like the Charter, put the people at center. It should stress that, through this declaration, Heads of States and Governments are responding to the Global Conversation carried out by the Secretary-General, i.e. they are speaking directly to the peoples. To meet this end, the text of the declaration should be drafted with a language that can easily be read by the peoples, thereby avoiding conventional and technical UN language.

This section should also be devoted to acknowledging the achievements of the UN during its 75 years of existence and commend the work done by UN staff and officials, including those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This section should further reaffirm the purposes and principles of the Charter, including the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all Member States, and recognize the Charter as a cornerstone of international law.

Furthermore, this section should be forward-looking and note the central role of the United Nations in ensuring the future we want, where no one is left behind. It will note that international cooperation is a prerequisite for the future we want, and it will reaffirm and redouble our collective commitment to multilateralism.

### ***Section 2 – Delivering on Commitments and Responding to Global Challenges***

This section of the declaration should be laying the grounds for meaningful action. It should have a number of concrete action points, that stem from the three pillars of the UN to reinvigorate our commitment to multilateralism. It should focus on international cooperation and action that Heads of States and Governments agree to during the coming decades. It should emphasize the interlinkages between the action points. It must be clear that there is already a basis for our work, the Agenda 2030, which has to be implemented. This section will need to reflect COVID-19 action in the short, medium and long term. These action points should also revolve around the four challenges

presented by the Secretary-General earlier this year, i.e. ongoing conflicts, climate change, global mistrust and emerging technologies. The action points should further reflect the priorities of the peoples, as expressed through the Global Conversation and the need to make the UN more inclusive.

The following topics reflects the most frequently raised issues in consultations with Member States, and could therefore serve as a basis for the action points, without prejudice to order or to the way they are clustered;

- i) Recovery from COVID-19/preparedness/building resilient systems and societies
- ii) Peace and security/ongoing conflicts/preventive diplomacy/non-proliferation and disarmament
- iii) Development/Decade of Action/Financing for development
- iv) Promoting full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- v) Humanitarian action/humanitarian access/respect for international humanitarian law
- vi) Gender equality and women's empowerment
- vii) Ensuring an inclusive UN, including partnerships with stakeholders and youth
- viii) Climate change/oceans/sustainable consumption
- ix) New Technologies/digitalization/cyber
- x) Global mistrust/inequalities/disinformation, incl. hate speech
- xi) Reform issues/sustainable financing of the UN

### ***Section 3 – Building consensus and mobilizing for change***

This section should be the concluding part of the declaration. It should specify how the action points under Section 2 should be followed up in order to achieve the visions put forward in Section 1. This section will recognize the need to take action in the short, medium and long term to address the issues set out in the declaration. It will recognize that all work must be integrated, across the three pillars, and it will stress the need to avoid overlaps and duplications. It will task the Secretary-General to take the work forward and use the convening power of the UN. It will also express the commitment by Member States to take the declaration to their citizens, in particular youth.