



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 May 2020

Subject: Draft decision entitled “Extension of the procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic” (A/74/L.65)

Excellency,

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 Friday, 15 May 2020 at 4 p.m., the enclosed draft decision entitled, “Extension of the procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, issued as document A/74/L.65, under agenda 7 [Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items], and available on Official Document System (<https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp>) in all official languages.

As presented in the townhall meeting held on Friday, 8 May 2020, this draft decision will enable the respective Main Committees of the General Assembly to continue the established practice of electing their Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur, shortly after the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, where the number of candidates are equal to or do not exceed the number of vacant seats. This would also enable other subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, like the Committee on Conferences, to work more smoothly.

I have been informed that the adoption of the draft decision (A/74/L.65) would not give rise to any budgetary implications. Delegations wishing to make statements in explanations of position are invited to refer to the procedure annexed to this letter.

Objections to the draft decision (A/74/L.65) should be done via a letter or Note Verbale addressed to the President of the General Assembly. Such correspondence should be sent via email to opga@un.org. Please clearly indicate the title of the draft decision in the subject line of the communication.

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, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande'.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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

ANNEX
Explanation of position

After adoption, Member States wishing to make an explanation of position (except co-sponsors who are not allowed to make an explanation under rule 88 of the rules of procedure) may do so in any of the following ways, without prejudice to the delegations' rights under the rules of procedure to explain their position at the first plenary meeting to be 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 position received within two weeks of the end of the silence procedure 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 at 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 opga@un.org as per details in the letter). If received prior or within the hour following the end of the silence procedure, it will then be circulated in a subsequent letter from the President to all Member States. If received afterwards, it will be posted on the [e-delegate](#) portal. 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.