



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 May 2020

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter of 3 April 2020, and due to the expected continued limitations on holding large in-person meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic until the end of June 2020, I have decided to:

- i. Postpone the High-level dialogue on desertification, land degradation and drought scheduled on 9 June 2020. I will soon submit a draft decision recommending that this event is postponed to the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, to a date to be decided at the seventy-fifth session;
- ii. Postpone the plenary meeting for the consideration of agenda item 32 entitled “Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development” scheduled on 16 June 2020;
- iii. Postpone the plenary meeting for the consideration of agenda item 118 entitled “United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy” scheduled on 29 June 2020. A separate letter on this topic will follow.

I recommend that the commemoration of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations scheduled on 26 June 2020 be held via a virtual platform. More details regarding the proposed modalities for this ceremony will follow.

I will shortly submit a draft decision on the postponement of the twentieth session of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation scheduled to be held in May 2020.

I will also shortly submit a draft decision on the postponement of the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States for the Consideration of the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (BMS7) currently scheduled to take place at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 June 2020.

As per my separate letter, I will also submit a draft decision on the postponement of the twenty-first meeting of the Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea scheduled to take place at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 26 June 2020.

As for the elections scheduled in June, I was pleased to host a virtual meeting of the Chairs of the Regional Groups featuring a presentation by Mr. Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, on a non-paper outlining the options for elections by the General Assembly without plenary meetings. I look forward to hosting a townhall for all Member States on this matter. A separate letter on this topic with an Information Note will be sent out in due course.

Also, now that, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 were postponed for the first time in their history to 2021, the plenary meeting scheduled on July 13, 2020 for a solemn appeal for the observance of the Olympic Truce will be postponed to the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Now that we know that the limitations on holding large in-person meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will have to be maintained until the end of June 2020, I will shortly submit a draft decision extending 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” beyond the end of May.

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  
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