



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 May 2020

Excellency,

In light of the recent medical guidance received from the United Nations Medical Director regarding the ongoing measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and safeguard the health of colleagues (copy attached), it is clear that the current restrictions on holding in-person meetings will be maintained until 30 June 2020. As several important electoral processes are scheduled to be held in June, it is crucial that we find novel means of ensuring the business continuity of the Assembly.

Accordingly, I consulted with the Chairs of the Regional Groups of United Nations Member States for the months of April and May 2020, on the need to explore alternative mechanisms to hold elections without plenary meetings. The virtual consultation featured 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.

Further to the above, it is my pleasure invite you to a virtual town hall meeting on Friday, 8 May 2020, at 10:00 a.m. for a presentation of the aforementioned non-paper by Mr. Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, and consultation on how the Assembly can decisively proceed with the elections scheduled in June 2020. The non-paper is enclosed, and an information note providing guidance on how to join the virtual meeting will be provided in due course.

You will note that for elections requiring secret ballots, the attached non-paper outline one simple option of staggering the casting of ballots at a specific venue announced prior to the election, and another possible option of casting votes by electronic means.

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, consisting of a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that curves upwards and ends in a small loop.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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