



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 June 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Mrs. Adela Raz, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, the co-coordinators for the General Assembly on COVID-19-related initiatives.

The aforementioned letter conveys the zero draft for the proposed United Nations General Assembly omnibus resolution on the COVID-19 pandemic. The co-coordinators also invite you to a virtual town hall meeting on Friday, 12 June 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Details pertaining to the virtual arrangements for the meeting will be circulated by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) in due course.

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 assurance 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



4 June 2020

Excellency,

We have the honour to write to you in our capacity as co-coordinators of the General Assembly on COVID-19-related initiatives. We would like to express our appreciation to you and your Mission for your participation in this process.

Attached to this letter is the zero draft for the proposed UNGA omnibus resolution on the COVID-19 pandemic. The zero draft has been carefully developed in line with Member States' written and oral contributions, as well as recommendations from groups of Member States and experts within the UN System. In line with Member States' proposals, it is a concise, yet comprehensive text that is based on agreed-language to the extent possible. We are deeply grateful to all Member States and other stakeholders for their feedback and support to the co-coordinators in the development of the zero draft.

To continue our discussions and start the virtual negotiations of the resolution, we have the pleasure of inviting you to a third virtual town hall on Friday, 12 June 2020, at 10:00 a.m. We humbly ask that you provide your comments and proposals on the zero draft in writing.

The President of the General Assembly will participate in the meeting. The Secretariat will provide an information note providing guidance on how to join the virtual meeting in the coming days.

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

H.E. Mrs. Adela Raz,
Permanent Representative of Afghanistan
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović,
Permanent Representative of Croatia
to the United Nations

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

Omnibus Resolution

Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The General Assembly

PP 1. *Recognizing* that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and *expressing concern* about its impact on the loss of life and livelihoods, food insecurity and malnutrition, health and education, the disruption to economies and societies, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and between countries, which will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, within their given timeframes, (PP1&3 of 74/270; PP1 WHA; PP2 HRC PS)

PP 2. *Expressing* solidarity with all countries affected by the pandemic, and condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of COVID-19 and those whose lives and livelihoods have been and will be affected by the crisis, (based on OP3 of 74/270; PP2 WHA)

PP 3. *Fully convinced* that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity, cooperation, transparency, accountability, and trust among States, peoples and generations that enhances the ability and determination of States and other stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda, (based on PP8 of 74/270; P2 & P15 of 74/4)

PP 4. *Reaffirming* its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and *recalling* the importance of a timely implementation in this Decade of Action of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Paris Agreement, the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, the political declaration of the “SDG Summit” and other internationally agreed development goals, relevant agreements, UN outcomes and programs of actions, including the SAMOA Pathway, Vienna Programme of Action, the Istanbul Programme of Action and the UN Political Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases, (new)

PP 5. *Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other human rights instruments, and emphasizing the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, (SG’s brief on human rights, Rural Women, 74/126, PP2)

PP 6. *Reaffirming* the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, (74/274, PP4)

PP 7. *Reaffirming* that emergency measures, policies and strategies put in place by countries to address and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the national level must be necessary, time-bound and proportionate in accordance with international human rights standards,

and *noting* that there are certain fundamental rights and freedoms which do not allow for derogations, (based on SG’s Policy Brief “COVID-19 and Human Rights”; ICCPR Article 4)

PP 8. *Reaffirming* its resolutions 74/270 on Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and 74/274 on International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, (new)

PP 9. *Recognizing* the central role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating the global response to COVID-19, and *also recognizing* the World Health Organization’s important role and its constitutional mandate to act, inter alia, as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work and its key leadership role within the broader United Nations response, (based on PP4 WHA resolution)

PP 10. *Welcoming* the stepwise process of impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation, including using existing mechanisms, as appropriate, to review experience gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international health response to COVID-19 called for by the World Health Assembly, (OP9.10 WHA)

PP 11. *Expressing* appreciation for the leadership of the Secretary-General and *welcoming* his Appeal for a Global Ceasefire, the release of all relevant UN reports and policy briefs on the impacts of COVID-19, notably the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, (new)

PP 12. *Recognizing* the vital role that non-governmental organizations, women’s and community-based organizations, youth-led organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector play in the response and recovery, (new)

PP 13. *Noting with deep concern* that challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, in particular African countries, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as middle-income countries and countries dependent on commodities, remittances or tourism, are exacerbated by the pandemic, and *underlining* the need to give particular attention to their concerns and specific challenges, (based on OP4 74/233; OP9 74/4)

PP 14. *Deeply concerned* that the COVID-19 pandemic, due to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, global trade and travel, and food and agricultural systems, is having a devastating impact on sustainable development, including food security, nutrition and livelihoods, education and health service provision and access, especially for people in vulnerable situations and in countries in special situations, and is making the prospect of eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition in all forms by 2030 more difficult, (new)

PP 15. *Reaffirming* that the pandemic and related global economic and commodity price shocks could significantly increase the number of countries in or at risk of debt distress, and *deeply concerned* about the impact of high debt levels on countries’ abilities to withstand the impact of the COVID-19 shock and to invest in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, (based on P9 FFD)

PP 16. *Recognizing* that the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionately heavy impact on women, youth and children, as well as on the poor and the most vulnerable, including, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, homeless, refugees, internally displaced persons, minorities, migrants, institutionalized persons, people living with non-communicable diseases, especially cardiovascular conditions, people exposed to unsafe levels of air pollution and persons facing multiple intersecting forms of violence and discrimination, and that responses to the crisis needs to consider multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, exclusion and inequalities, (new, listing partly from 70/1)

PP 17. *Deeply concerned* that the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women and girls, including on their economic and productive lives and their access to essential health services, the increased demand for care work and the reported surge of sexual and gender-based violence as a result of lockdowns, is deepening already existing inequalities and risks reversing the gender equality progress achieved in recent decades, (based on women policy brief)

PP 18. *Welcoming* innovative, participatory, inclusive, coordinated, people-centred, gender- and age-responsive and conflict-sensitive approaches adopted in many local, national, regional and global responses, (new)

Multilateralism and Solidarity

OP 1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity, as the only way for the world to effectively respond to global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic; (new)

OP 2. *Calls* for intensified international cooperation to contain, mitigate and overcome the pandemic and its consequences through a multidimensional, coordinated, innovative, swift and decisive response, including by supporting the development of new data tools and platforms to inform mitigation and response actions and continuously monitor the impact of the pandemic, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries, to build a more equitable, sustainable and resilient future; (based on OP5 74/270; shared responsibility report)

OP 3. *Supports* the Secretary-General's appeal for an immediate global ceasefire, and notes with concern the pandemic's impact on conflict-affected states and peace and security; (based on joint support for SG appeal)

OP 4. *Urges* relevant actors, including religious leaders, to promote inclusion and unity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to speak out and take action against stigmatization, discrimination, hate speech, ageism, xenophobia, racism or violence; (based on SG's Policy Brief "COVID-19 and Human Rights")

Jointly Protecting

OP 5. *Calls* on Member States to maintain the continued functioning of the health system in all relevant aspects, in accordance with national context and priorities, necessary for an effective public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing epidemics, and the uninterrupted and safe provision of population and individual level services, for, among others, communicable diseases, including by ensuring the continuation of undisrupted vaccination programs, neglected tropical disease prevention and control, non-communicable

diseases, mental health, mother and child health and sexual and reproductive health and promotion, clean water and sanitation and improved nutrition for women and children, recognizing in this regard the importance of increased domestic financing and development assistance where needed in the context of achieving Universal Health Coverage; (based on OP7.5 WHA)

OP 6. *Calls* on international organisations and other relevant stakeholders to support all countries, upon their request, in the implementation and review of their multi-sectoral national action plans and in strengthening their health systems to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in maintaining the safe provision of all other essential public health functions and services; (based on OP 8.1. WHA)

OP 7. *Calls upon* Member States, supported by the United Nations, to work together to develop a science-based, cooperative approach to allocating scarce resources on the basis of a collective public health needs assessment; (based on shared responsibility, global solidarity)

OP 8. *Calls* for ensuring specific protection for vulnerable groups in the context of timely, universal and equitable access to safe, quality, effective and affordable health care services and equipment, including diagnostics, medicine and vaccines; (new)

OP 9. *Encourages* Member States to work with relevant stakeholders to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines, leverage digital technologies, and strengthen scientific international cooperation in response to COVID-19 and to bolster coordination, including with the private sector, towards rapid development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, antiviral medicines, personal protective equipment, medical science-based treatment protocols and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficacy, safety, equity, accessibility, and affordability; (based on OP3 74/274)

OP 10. *Recognizes* the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, once safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable medical-based treatment and vaccines are available; (based on OP 6. WHA)

OP 11. *Calls upon* Member States to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, ethnicity, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to inform COVID-19 responses, while respecting the right to privacy; (based on 2030 Agenda; 73/179 PP24)

OP 12. *Calls upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the movement of foods and food-production related items, maintain functioning food value chains, allow freedom of movement of agricultural and food workers to avoid food shortages, and provide adequate safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods on food security and malnutrition; (based on P5 FFD; 74/2 OP70; AU Declaration on food security and nutrition, p. 4)

OP 13. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, in particular medical personnel responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, their means of transport and equipment; and to protect hospitals and other medical facilities as well as the

delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently and safely perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations; (PP14 WHA)

OP 14. *Calls upon* all Member States to explore ways to eliminate any impediment to the delivery and access of humanitarian assistance, including by the application of humanitarian exemptions to sanctions where they have negative impact on the capacity of States to respond efficiently, specifically in the acquisition of medical equipment and supplies to adequately treat their populations in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic; (new)

OP 15. *Calls* for ensuring specific protection for women, youth and children, as well as for the poor and the most vulnerable, including, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, homeless, refugees, internally displaced persons, minorities, migrants, institutionalized persons, people living with non-communicable diseases, especially cardiovascular conditions, people exposed to unsafe levels of air pollution and persons facing multiple intersecting forms of violence and discrimination, especially in the context of timely, universal, inclusive and equitable access to safe, quality, effective and affordable health care services, including diagnostics, medicine and vaccines and to leave no one behind; (based on the SG's Policy Briefs)

OP 16. *Calls upon* Member States to prevent the harmful effects of the pandemic on children by mitigating the damaging socio-economic impacts, with a particular focus on prioritizing the continuity of child-centered services on an equal access basis, upholding children's right to quality education by implementing appropriate measures, including by supporting families to allow their children, in particular girls, to return to school in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic and, while in confinement use accessible distance-learning solutions and to close the digital divide, while respecting the child's right to privacy; (based on policy brief on children)

OP 17. *Calls upon* Member States and other stakeholders to prevent, monitor and address the disproportionate effects of the pandemic on older persons, including the particular risks they face in accessing health care, and to ensure that health-care decisions affecting older persons are guided by a commitment to dignity and the right to health; (Based on SG's policy on COVID and Older Persons)

OP 18. *Calls upon* Member States to integrate prevention, mitigation, and response efforts and reinforce plans and structures to counter the increase of sexual and gender-based violence, in online and offline contexts, as part of their COVID-19 responses, including by designating protection shelters, health and support services as well as legal protection as essential services for all women and girls; (UN Policy Brief on Women and COVID-19)

OP 19. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt measures to recognize and reduce women's and girls' disproportionate share of paid and unpaid care and domestic work and the feminization of poverty, which is exacerbated by COVID-19, including through labour policies, public services and social protection; (based on CSW63; policy brief on women and solidarity report)

OP 20. *Urges* Member States to ensure full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making and equal access to leadership and representation in all spheres of society for all people, with a special emphasis on women, young people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons and other marginalized groups, and to fully respect, protect and fulfil

existing commitments and obligations with respect to equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, as part of their COVID-19 response; (based on OP2 74/1.52; SG’s policy briefs)

OP 21. *Reemphasize* the importance of freedom of expression, safety of journalists, and access to accurate and timely information, as essential for public health purposes, as well as social cohesion, and calls on Member States to ensure the free flow of information, without suppression, while countering misinformation online and offline with accurate, clear and evidence-based information, and avoiding efforts that could result in censorship of protected speech, endangering human rights and the rule of law; (based on SG’s Policy Brief “COVID-19 and Human Rights”)

Recovering Together

OP 22. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure that our efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda, for all people everywhere, will be accelerated by building more sustainable, peaceful, just, equitable, inclusive and resilient societies where no one is left behind in a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, as determined by our leaders at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit,

OP 23. Also calls upon Member States to enact the policies necessary to address the economic crisis, avoid a depression, begin economic recovery and minimize the negative effects on livelihoods, including social protection for formal and informal sector workers, access to finance for micro, small and medium enterprises, financial inclusion mechanisms for the poor, women, young entrepreneurs and persons with disabilities, strong fiscal stimulus packages and supportive monetary policies, and calls upon donors and other stakeholders to support countries that lack capacity to implement such measures; (based on SG’s 2020 report on shared responsibility, and PP16 FFD)

OP 24. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Group of 20 to provide a time-bound suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries and by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to provide liquidity and other support measures to ease the debt burden of developing countries, and *recommends* all relevant actors to address debt vulnerabilities, through existing channels and mechanisms, in developing countries due to the pandemic; (based on P9 FFD; SG report on debt)

OP 25. *Emphasizes* that the crisis provides an opportunity to address issues in the international debt architecture and the international financial system; (based FFD; debt report)

OP 26. *Notes* the need to consider a review of international conventions and multilateral instruments on transport and transit and bilateral, sub-regional, and regional agreements, considering the experience gained by the international community to counter the threat of COVID-19; (new)

OP 27. *Encourages* donors to leverage the global Aid for Trade agenda to enable developing countries, and in particular least developed countries, to benefit from the opportunities afforded by global value chains and foreign investment in their sustainable recovery efforts; (based on P11 FFD)

OP 28. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen development cooperation and to increase access to concessional finance, especially in the context of the global pandemic, and *calls upon* donors that have not done so to intensify their efforts to fulfil their respective official development assistance commitments, particularly to least developed countries; (based on P12 FFD)

OP 29. *Notes* the impact of corruption and illicit financial flows, including that caused by tax evasion and transnational organized crime, on the ability of countries to respond to and recover from COVID-19, and *calls upon* Member States to recommit to addressing the challenges of combating illicit financial flows and strengthening good practices on tax administration, assets return and recovery, including by enforcing existing obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and to implement effective, inclusive and sustainable measures to prevent and combat corruption within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (based on PP12, OP6, OP11 74/206; P14 FFD),

OP 30. *Calls upon* Member States and International Financial Institutions to provide liquidity in the financial system, especially in all developing countries, and *supports* the continued examination of the broader use of special drawing rights to enhance the resilience of the international monetary system; (based on shared responsibility report; OP26 74/202)

OP 31. *Calls upon* all relevant stakeholders to promote research, capacity-building initiatives, innovation and technologies, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner in response to COVID-19 and towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals; (based on OP27(h) 74/4; OP26 74/202)

Rebuilding Better

OP 32. *Calls upon* Member States and other stakeholders to refocus action and make sustainable long-term investments to end poverty and inequalities, and address the underlying human rights concerns that have left us vulnerable to the pandemic and greatly exacerbated its effects with a view to building a more inclusive, just, sustainable and resilient future; (briefs on human rights and global solidarity)

OP 33. *Calls upon* Member States to develop recovery plans that drive transformative change towards inclusive and just societies including by targeting all women and girls, especially those who are most vulnerable; (UN Policy Brief on Women and COVID-19)

OP 34. *Further stresses* that the current crisis has highlighted the need to reduce the risk of the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change, and emphasize the need for action at all levels to enhance efforts to build resilience through, inter alia, the sustainable management of ecosystems to reduce the likelihood of zoonotic infections and the impacts and costs of disasters; (para 5 of 74/219)

OP 35. *Urges*, in this regard, Member States to adopt a climate -sensitive approach to COVID-19 recovery efforts, including directing investment into building sustainable and inclusive economies, reversing biodiversity loss and strengthening approaches that enhance both resilience and efficiency, such as mainstreaming decarbonisation and transitioning to a green economy into national recovery plans and promoting climate action and a circular economy and

raising the ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions; (SG report on shared responsibility of 2020)

OP 36. *Recognizes* that substantial digital divides and data inequalities exist between countries and regions, and between developed and developing countries, particularly Africa and least developed countries, and urges leaders to accelerate the catalytic role that digital technologies have played in ameliorating the impact of the crisis on education, health, communication, commerce and business continuity and to take concerted action to further digital government, scientific research, emerging technologies and new data sources and to build resilient, integrated and agile data and statistical systems under the leadership of National Statistical Offices, that can respond to the increased and urgent data demands in times of disaster and ensure a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; (based on 73/141)

Partnerships, Commitments and the Way Forward

OP 37. *Encourages* the continued implementation of current reforms of the UN development system and *affirms* that a reformed resident coordinator system and a strategic, flexible, country-owned results and action-oriented UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, as well as transparency and accountability will help support countries' response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; (based on OP1 72/20; UN response framework)

OP 38. *Further encourages* the UN development system and the UN country teams to support countries' responses to the pandemic and its impacts, building on the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19; (new)

OP 39. *Urges* intensified international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; (new)

OP 40. *Calls upon* Member States to engage all relevant stakeholders, including youth, civil society, human rights defenders, the private sector, and academia, through the establishment of participatory and transparent multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships, to design effective responses and review and monitor their implementation; (based on, 74/L.26, OP9)

OP 41. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector and International Financial Institutions, to mobilize a global response amounting to the equivalent of, at least, 10 percent of global GDP; (SG report on shared responsibility of 2020)

OP 42. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders to mobilize as matter of priority resources to support all UN appeals for COVID-19, while underlining the importance of flexible funding and for these efforts not to replace or divert from existing needs; (based on UN response framework)

OP 43. *Urges* all relevant actors to align investments with the 2030 Agenda, including investments supporting progress towards universal health coverage and reduction of inequalities, to help ensure a sustainable recovery from COVID-19, as well as pandemic preparedness and the prevention and detection of and response to any future outbreak; (based on P16 FFD)

OP 44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to work with relevant stakeholders and mobilize the UN's network of partnerships to support Member States and other actors in national, regional and international responses to the COVID-19 pandemic; (based on OP9.1 WHA Res; PP10 S/RES/2177 (2014); UN response framework)

OP 45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the inputs by the Member States, Regional Organizations, and UN Agencies; (new)

OP 46. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled "Comprehensive and Coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic". (new)