



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 June 2020

Subject: Draft decision entitled “Postponement of the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission” (A/74/L.70)

Excellency,

Sequel to the informal briefing by the Chair of the seventy-first session of the International Law Commission, Mr. Pavel Sturma, and the Chair-designate of the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission (“the Commission”), Mr. Mahmoud D. Hmoud, and other members of the Bureau-designate of the Commission on Monday, 15 June 2020, I understand that delegations may need more time to consider all the recommendations of the Chair of the seventy-first session and the Chair designate of the seventy-second session of the Commission to postpone the seventy-second and seventy-third sessions of the Commission, respectively to 2021 and 2022, due to the limitations on holding large in-person meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to also extend by one year the terms of office of the members of the Commission, thus expiring at the end of 2022.

In this regard, I have the pleasure to inform you that I have decided to appoint the Chair of the Sixth Committee, H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to, inter alia, facilitate discussions on the aforementioned recommendations.

As the next session of the ILC is scheduled to start on Monday, 29 June 2020, it is pertinent that it be expeditiously postponed in the meantime. Therefore, 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*” and decision 74/555 of 15 May 2020, entitled, “*Extension of the procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic*”, it is my pleasure to place under silence procedure, until Tuesday, 23 June 2020, at 1:00 p.m., the enclosed short draft decision entitled, “*Postponement of the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission*”, issued as document A/74/L.70, under agenda item 79 [Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-first session] and available on Official Document System (<https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp>) in all official languages.

I have been informed that the adoption of the draft decision (A/74/L.70) would not give rise to any budgetary implications.

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

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.70) 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. If a Member State wishes to have it issued as a document of the General Assembly, the request should subsequently be addressed to the Secretary-General as per the Annex.

I would like to thank Ambassador Mlynár for having accepted this very important responsibility. I trust that you will extend your full support and cooperation to them throughout the process.

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 series of loops and a final flourish that ends in a small circle.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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.