



## PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Ref. No: PMNY/DPR/15

10 July 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the note verbale of the Secretary-General, dated 30 June 2020, in which he stated that "a majority of Member States have concurred with the request to convene a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic" and that "[i]n accordance with rules 8 (a) and 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General hereby informs the Permanent Representative that the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly shall be convened on Friday, 10 July 2020".

2. As further noted by the Secretary-General, "[t]here is currently no agreed format or modalities on the holding of formal meetings of the General Assembly on a virtual platform and there would need to be an agreement among Member States in this regard, taking into consideration the technical limitations of the technology currently available to the United Nations" and "[a]s with other special sessions, there would also be a need for Member States to agree upon the modalities for the session".

3. In my capacity as the Temporary President pursuant to rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and 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*", 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*" and decision 74/558 of 18 June 2020 entitled "*Extension of the procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic until the end of July 2020*", it is my pleasure to place under silence procedure, until Wednesday, 15 July 2020 at noon, the following draft decisions:

Decision 1: "The General Assembly takes note of the information contained in document A/S-31/2 concerning Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations".

Decision 2: "The General Assembly decides that, in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure, the Credentials Committee of the thirty-first special session should have the same membership as that of the seventy-fourth regular session of the Assembly, namely, Barbados, Botswana, China, Mauritius, Nepal, the Russian Federation, San Marino, the United States of America and Uruguay".



Decision 3: "The General Assembly decides to elect His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria as the President of the General Assembly at its thirty-first special session".

4. Delegations wishing to make statements in explanations of position are invited to refer to the procedure annexed to this letter. Objections to any of the draft decisions should be done via a letter or Note Verbale addressed to the General Assembly Affairs Branch of the Secretariat. Such correspondence should be sent via email to [gaab@un.org](mailto:gaab@un.org). Please clearly indicate 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.

5. It is my understanding that, once elected, the President of the General Assembly will circulate a letter to place the following matters under silence procedure:

(1) a decision to elect the Vice-Presidents of the special session; (2) a decision to elect the Chairs of the Main Committees of the special session; and (3) a decision to adopt the agenda of the special session (the provisional agenda has been issued as A/S-31/1).

6. The General Assembly will also have to decide on modalities for substantive discussion on the topic of the special session, including its date, and any other matters concerning the organization of the session. The President of the special session, once elected, will keep Members apprised of the way forward in due course.

7. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Samson Sunday Adegboje".

Samson Sunday Adegboje  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United  
Nations

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:

- 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 in the subject line of the e-mail to be sent to Ms. Cassandra Price Taveras at [pricec@un.org](mailto:pricec@un.org) in the General Assembly Affairs Branch.
- Option 2: 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 provisional agenda of the current special 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](mailto:sgcentral@un.org)) with a copy to [gaab@un.org](mailto:gaab@un.org) and [dms@un.org](mailto: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.