



## PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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1 July 2020

Excellency,

In my capacity as the Temporary President pursuant to rule 31 of the rules of procedure, 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. I would therefore, wish to spell out the procedural steps to be taken without holding a meeting, in-person or virtual, pending an agreement on modalities for substantive discussion on the topic of the special session, as follows:

- On Friday, 10 July 2020, 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*”, I will circulate a letter to place under silence procedure 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” [under sub-item (a) of item 3 of the provisional agenda (Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee)].

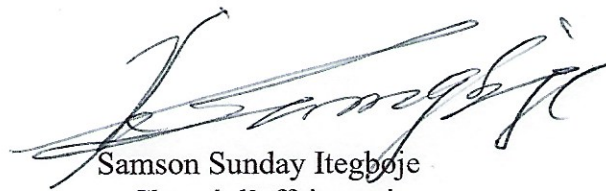
Decision 3: “The General Assembly decides to elect His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria as the President of the General Assembly at its thirty-first special session” [under item 4 of the provisional agenda (Election of the President and other officers)].

- Once elected, the President of the General Assembly at its thirty-first special session will circulate a letter to place the following matters under silence procedure, in accordance with Assembly decisions 74/544, 74/555 and 74/558:

(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).

- 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. I or the President of the special session, once elected, will keep Members apprised of the way forward in due course.

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



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to the United Nations

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