



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 July 2020

Subject: Draft decision entitled “High-level meetings of the General Assembly in September 2020” (A/74/L.75)

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter dated 17 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*”, placing under silence procedure the draft decision entitled, “*High-level meetings of the General Assembly in September 2020*” (A/74/L.75), until 22 July 2020 at 5:00 p.m., it is my pleasure to inform you that the silence procedure has concluded without objections.

Accordingly, the decision is considered adopted by the General Assembly as decision 74/562 and is in effect from 5:01 p.m. today, Wednesday, 22 July 2020. The General Assembly will take note of decision 74/562 at its next plenary meeting to be held at the United Nations Headquarters.

Also find enclosed the explanation of position received regarding this decision.

In keeping with established practice, the Secretariat will, shortly, circulate a Note Verbale providing instructions regarding the list of speakers for the general debate of the seventy-fifth session. As requested in decision 74/562, I will, in due course, communicate the other organizational arrangements, including instructions regarding the lists of speakers, for the other high-level meetings. When a delegation has a pre-recorded statement of its Head of State, Vice-President, Crown Prince or Princess, Head of Government, Minister or Vice-Minister, to be introduced by their representative who is physically present in the Assembly Hall, the level of representation will be determined by that of the pre-recorded statement.

Furthermore, as per usual, the Secretariat shall soon circulate an information note for delegations to provide details on the arrangements for the high-level meetings and the general debate of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

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

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, circular flourish.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
ANTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

DNU- 068- 2020

New York, July 21st, 2020

Subject: Explanation of position. - High Level meetings of the General Assembly in September 2020
(A/74/L.75)

Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honor to write to you in relation to your letter dated 17 July 2020 which makes reference to the draft decision entitled, “High-Level meetings of the General Assembly in September 2020”, issued as document A/74/L.75, under agenda item 7 [Organization of Work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee] and that has been placed under silence procedure until Wednesday 22 July 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

His Excellency
TIJJANI MUHAMMAD-BANDE
President of the General Assembly
Office of the President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

The Republic of El Salvador highly appreciates the formulation of this draft decision which we consider of most importance in order to set out – without setting a precedent – the modalities under which the General Debate of the seventy-fifth session, the high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, and the other mandated high-level meetings planned for the high-level week are to be carried out, noting the extraordinary circumstances concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of ensuring the health and well-being of United Nations’ officials and Member States’ permanent representatives and delegates based in New York.

However, and for the purpose of giving a clarifying explanation, my delegation, in its national capacity, wishes to express that, while the provisions that are outlined in the aforementioned draft decision are in line of what was previously discussed in the preparations for the High-Level Week, we consider there is still need to elucidate draft provision established under paragraph a).

Accordingly, in reference to pre-recorded statements made by a Member State, through its Head of State, Vice-President, Crown Prince or Princess, Head of Government, Minister or Vice-minister, when the paragraph states that declarations: “*(...)will be played in the General Assembly Hall during the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, the high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and the high-level meetings referred to in paragraph (c) below, after introduction by their representative who is physically present in the Assembly Hall*”, we consider that such wording could still require a more precise reference regarding the term “representative”, establishing in this sense that these are to be understood as Permanent Representatives or designated officials of Permanent Missions based in New York.

The assessment measures to mitigate and reduce the risk of the coronavirus pandemic are not the same in all countries; some of them, including El Salvador, are still implementing travel restrictions and quarantine modalities with the purpose of preventing and mitigating the risk of the coronavirus pandemic and its possible outbreaks. Therefore, it is now more than ever when we need to consider the importance of transparent and equal conditions that are to rule the provisional modalities of participation during the General Debate and the High-Level Week events. In this sense, my delegation highly encourages to consider the above interpretation when implementing paragraph a) of the draft decision at

hand, to which end, we will continue to promote the purposes and principles of the United Nations, beyond the conventional ways that we have performed.

Moreover, my delegation wishes to point out that draft decision A/74/L.75 is to be implemented in accordance to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, particularly, the proper exercise of the Right of Reply established in rule 73 and that is to be accorded to any member if a speech delivered makes this desirable.

Excellency,

The Republic of El Salvador, as a founding member of the United Nations, reaffirms its high willingness to promote new courses of actions and renewed commitments of this organization, even amidst these extraordinary circumstances that are, indeed, a turning point for humanity. Therefore, we stand ready to jointly address the common challenges, as equal members of the international community; and achieve our common goals of peace and prosperity for all.

I kindly request the President of the General Assembly to circulate this letter to all Member States and Observers of the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.



EGRISelda LÓPEZ

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations

38 /2020

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and has the honor to refer the General Assembly draft decision (A/74/L.75) and explain the national position regarding this draft decision.

Chile has consistently expressed its support that for a robust, engaged and fully functional United Nations System, particularly the General Assembly as its main deliberative, policy-making and representative organ, particularly in these times of unprecedented challenges for the world.

In that sense, Chile fully supports all the initiatives that have arisen from the Office of the President of the General Assembly in this uncertain period.

In light of these exceptional times, Chile lends its support to the decision to authorizing the admissibility of pre-recorded video statements to only the General Debate of the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly and the other mandated high-level meetings planned for the high-level week, without setting any precedent or excluding the possibility of physical presence of the Heads of State or other dignitaries that wish to deliver their statements in the General Debate at the General Assembly Hall.

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, July 22th, 2020



To
Office of the President of the General Assembly