



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 July 2020

Subject: Draft decisions regarding the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the letter from the Temporary President of the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly, dated 15 July 2020, in which the adoption of decisions S-31/1, S-31/2 and S-31/3 was announced.

In my capacity as the President of the thirty-first special session, 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 Tuesday, 21 July 2020 at 4 p.m., the following draft decisions:

Decision 1: “The General Assembly decides that Vice-Presidents of the thirty-first special session shall be the same as those of the seventy-fourth regular session of the General Assembly”.

Decision 2: “The General Assembly decides that the Chairpersons of the Main Committees of the thirty-first special session shall be the same as those of the seventy-fourth regular session of the General Assembly”.

Decision 3: “The General Assembly decides to adopt the agenda of its thirty-first special session as contained in document A/S-31/1”.

Delegations wishing to make statements in explanations of position are invited to refer to the procedure annexed to this letter. Objections to the draft decisions should be done via a letter or Note Verbale addressed to the President of the Special Session of the General Assembly. Such correspondence should be sent via email to opga@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.

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

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 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 stylized, cursive script that begins with a large, sweeping 'T' and ends with a small, circular flourish.

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.