



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 July 2020

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

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter dated 9 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*”, it is my pleasure to place under silence procedure, until Wednesday, 22 July 2020 at 5 p.m., the enclosed 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 available on Official Document System (<https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp>) in all official languages.

As previously conveyed, the high-level meeting of the Assembly to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations will take place as previously scheduled on 21 September 2020, and the Declaration, whose negotiations successfully concluded earlier this week, will be formally adopted at the meeting. The General Debate of the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly will also commence as previously scheduled, from 22 September 2020, in order to allow for the seventy-fifth session, in both the plenary and the Main Committees, to proceed with the guidance usually expressed by national leaders during this Debate.

Furthermore, taking into account the need for physical distancing and expected limitations on the number of individuals physically present in the UN building at the same time, the aforementioned draft decision revises the schedule for other high-level meetings as follows:

- the Summit on Biodiversity to be held on Wednesday, 30 September 2020;
- the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held on Thursday, 1 October 2020; and
- the high-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons to be held on Friday, 2 October 2020.

The modalities of these three high-level meetings will remain essentially the same and I will be pleased to finalize the organizational arrangements of these meetings

Due to these exceptional times, the decision is also authorizing, without setting a precedent, the admissibility of pre-recorded video statements to only the General Debate at its 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. In such case, each country would be encouraged, as usual, to observe the time limit, for example 15 minutes in the General Debate that would include remarks in the Assembly Hall to introduce the pre-recorded video and the video itself.

In addition to the verbatim records of the General Debate and the high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, as per the practice established in the Security Council, the President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly will circulate as a document of the Assembly a compilation document of the statements delivered by Heads of State or other dignitaries by means of pre-recorded statements during the General Debate and the high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and submitted to the President no later than the day on which the pre-recorded statement is played in the Assembly Hall.

In keeping with the established practice, the provisional list of speakers will be established; multilingualism respected; arrangements will be made for statement delivered in a language other than the official languages of the Assembly; there will be live and on-demand streaming coverage; and footage will be made available to Member States.

To limit the footprint and the number of people into the UN building, physical access and presence will be limited to one or, if the situation allows, two delegates (based on the meeting risk assessment in September) using the habitual secondary pass in addition to regular grounds pass.

As per usual, the Secretariat shall prepare an information note for delegations to provide details on the arrangements for high-level meetings and the general debate of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. Meeting risk assessment will be conducted by the Secretariat to put in place the relevant mitigation measures in the UN building to minimize the risks to staff and delegates.

Member States are encouraged to move all side events to virtual platforms to limit the footprint and number of people in the UN building.

I have been informed that the adoption of the draft decision (A/74/L.75) would not give rise to any budgetary implications.

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.75) 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 avail myself 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 fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Tijjani Muhammad-Bande.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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 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.