



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 September 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a letter dated 14 September 2020 from H.E. Mr. Yashar T. Aliyev, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan, and H.E. Ms. Louise Blais, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada, co-facilitators overseeing the consultations on the modalities for the organization of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The aforementioned letter conveys the status of the intergovernmental consultations on the modalities for the organization of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. I extend my sincere thanks to the co-facilitators for their hard work and tireless efforts in facilitating the intergovernmental negotiations since their they were appointed one month ago, as well as to all delegations for their constructive engagement. The Special Session presents a historic opportunity to boost international cooperation and global solidarity to address the pandemic and commit to ambitious actions to build back better.

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 stylized, cursive script.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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



New York, 14 September 2020

H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
President of the General Assembly
United Nations

Your Excellency,

With reference to your letter dated 17 August 2020 in which you appointed us as Co-Facilitators of the modalities for the organisation of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, thank you for having entrusted us with this important task. As your mandate is coming to an end, we would like to provide you with an update with respect to our co-facilitation:

- In our letter to you dated 25 August, we asked you to kindly circulate the zero draft resolution entitled "Special session of the General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic", to be considered under agenda item 123 "Strengthening the UN System".
- We held three rounds of consultations on 31 August, 4 September and 10 September. We heard general comments on the text during the first two consultations and proceeded to a line-by-line review of the resolution during the third and last session.
- Good progress was registered and the active engagement and contributions of delegations have led to the agreement of some paragraphs of the resolution on an *ad referendum* basis, and to highlight areas where more time is needed for discussion.
- Those areas where more discussion is needed include the designation of observers, the participation of civil society, the subject matters to be covered by the Special Session, the speakers and the format of panels versus interactive dialogues.

We kindly request that you circulate this letter to all delegations for their information. We thank you again for your trust and the kind assistance of your Office in organizing these informal consultations. We are confident that continued engagement with delegations could pave the way to consensus on the modalities of this historic Special Session.

We remain at your disposal should you have any questions or further guidance.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration,

H.E. Mr. Yashar T. Aliyev
Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan

H.E. Ms. Louise Blais
Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada