



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
SPECIAL SESSION

12 September 2020

Subject: Rescheduled plenary meeting of the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to inform you that pursuant to decision 74/544 entitled, “*Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic*” the General Assembly should take note of all the decisions adopted under its mechanism at the first plenary meeting to be held as soon as circumstances allow. To take this requisite action and perform other pertinent tasks, I would like to inform you that I am rescheduling the plenary meeting of the special session in the afternoon of Monday, 14 September 2020, to be held immediately following the adjournment of the 64th plenary meeting of the seventy-fourth regular session of the Assembly.

The Secretary-General’s letter dated 7 July 2020 regarding the reopening of the UN Headquarters states that in the event that a meeting is to be held, “Occupational safety experts will be asked to complete a risk assessment of such requests and prepare mitigation measures to minimize the risks to staff and delegates.” The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) team concluded that the proposed meeting is at low risk if the following precautionary measures aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 are put in place:

- Access to the United Nations complex during the plenary meeting will be restricted.
- In addition to the listed entry requirements in the enclosed Annex, attendees confirm on entry to the UN complex that they have met any quarantine requirements of New York State regarding travel in the last 14 days from countries or US States considered high risk.
- To ensure the effectiveness of physical distancing in the General Assembly Hall, only one delegate per Member State and a delegate each from the Holy See, the State of Palestine and the European Union will be allowed in the Hall.

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

- Upon arrival at the United Nations Headquarters, one ticket will be issued by the Safety and Security Service per Member State and for the Holy See, the State of Palestine and the European Union.
- Access to the General Assembly Hall will require a regular delegate's pass and the ticket.
- The seating plan will be slightly amended to ensure physical distancing and the affected Member States will be reminded accordingly.
- The proceedings of the meetings will be webcast live and on-demand on UN Web TV, allowing representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers to do so through webcast.
- All statements will be made by delegations from their national seats.
- Furthermore, the Secretariat will actively manage the exit by calling each row for departure in a staggered manner.
- Additional measures are in the enclosed Annex.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all had to work under extraordinary conditions to overcome the myriad of challenges facing us. I urge all to follow the guidelines, including not to congregate, to maintain the recommended physical distancing, and to have a face covering on the day of the meeting.

The items for considerations by the Assembly at this plenary meeting of the special session will be announced in the Journal of the United Nations.

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



Tijjani Muhammad-Bande