



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 September 2020

Subject: General Debate of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that General Debate of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly will be held from Tuesday, 22 September, to Saturday, 26 September, and on Tuesday, 29 September 2020, in the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters.

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 at the General Assembly Hall 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 entry requirements listed in the 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;
- Access to the General Assembly Hall will require a regular delegate's pass and the secondary color-coded access card that has been provided to the Permanent Missions of a Member or observer State and the delegation of the European Union;
- The seating plan has been slightly amended to ensure physical distancing and the affected Member States will be reminded accordingly;

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

- All statements will be made by delegations from their national seats;
- The proceedings of the meetings will be webcast live and on-demand on UN Web TV, allowing to follow the proceedings through webcast;
- Furthermore, the Secretariat will actively manage the exit by calling each row for departure in a staggered manner;
- Information regarding additional measures is provided in the Annex.

Delegations of the Member States, Observer States and the European Union are reminded that, in accordance with decision 74/562, in addition to the verbatim records of the general debate, the President of the General Assembly will circulate as a document of the Assembly a compilation of the pre-recorded statements delivered by Heads of State or other dignitaries, submitted to the President no later than the day on which such statements are played in the Assembly Hall. Submissions in this regard should be made to estatements@un.org.

Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities who have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and have chosen to receive a secondary colour-coded access card for access to Conference Room 1 or Conference Room 2 in order to follow the proceedings are (A/INF/75/4/Rev.1, para. 88 (d)) are requested to closely follow the measures mentioned above, as well as the advice provided by Secretariat staff that will be at the Conference Rooms. The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) team concluded that the use of these two Conference Rooms are at medium risk.

Based on observations during prior meetings, the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) team stressed the importance for attendees to keep face coverings on at all times. In this regard, I urge delegations to read the mitigations measures carefully and fully comply with them.

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



Volkan BOZKIR