25 September 2020

Subject: High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

Excellency,

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/299 of 14 June 2019, paragraphs 2 and 3, observers of the Assembly have been encouraged to share their views on the theme of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in particular by participating with statements in the high level meeting convened on 21 September 2020 after Member States.

By decision 74/562 of 22 July 2020, the General Assembly, noting the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the limitations recommended on meetings within the United Nations, decided that Member States, observer States and the European Union could submit a pre-recorded statement to be played in the General Assembly Hall during the said high-level meeting after introduction by their representative who is physically present in the Assembly Hall.

In this regard, in line with the spirit of the Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations adopted on 21 September 2020, in particular the call to make the United Nations more inclusive and engage with all relevant stakeholders, I will submit for consideration of the General Assembly, after the closure of the general debate on Tuesday, 29 September, the attached draft decision, to be issued as A/75/L.2 under agenda item 128 (a) entitled “Strengthening of the United Nations system”.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York
The adoption of this draft decision would allow entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly (A/INF/75/3) to also submit a pre-recorded video statement by their high officials, to be introduced by a representative who is physically present in the Assembly Hall.

As mentioned in my letter dated 17 September 2020, those observers that wish to make a statement at the High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations will be invited to inscribe on the list of speakers after the date of the resumption of the High-level meeting is announced. Additional information on the inscription will be provided in due course.

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

Volkan BOZKIR
Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly

High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Noting with concern the situation regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the limitations recommended on meetings within the United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19,

Recalling its resolution 73/299 of 14 June 2019 and its decision 74/562 of 22 July 2020,

(a) Decides, without setting a precedent for future mandated high-level meetings planned for future high-level weeks, that entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, other than the European Union, can each submit a pre-recorded statement of their high officials, which will be played in the General Assembly Hall during the high-level meeting of the Assembly to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, after introduction by their representative who is physically present in the Assembly Hall;

(b) Also decides that, in addition to the verbatim records of the high-level meeting, the President of the General Assembly will circulate as a document of the Assembly a compilation document of the statements delivered by observers of the General Assembly referred to in paragraph (a) above by means of pre-recorded statements during the high-level meeting and submitted to the President no later than the day on which the pre-recorded statement is played in the Assembly Hall.