



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 October 2020

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 26 October 2020, regarding five COVID-19 infections at a Mission of a Member State, I have received a letter dated 27 October 2020, from the Secretary-General recommending that in-person meetings be suspended until the end of the week in order to allow for a better understanding of the extent of the exposure and for full contact tracing to be completed. The letter is attached for your information.

Accordingly, after consulting with the Chairs of the Main Committees, and in light of the need to safeguard public health, all in-person meetings of the Plenary and Main Committees of the General Assembly are cancelled this week.

I remain in touch with the Secretariat and further details will be provided on the rescheduling of Plenary meetings.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Karasoglu' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Volkan BOZKIR

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



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

27 October 2020

Dear Mr. President,


Following the reports of recent infections at a Mission of a Member State, I would like to recommend, out of an abundance of caution and following medical advice, that in-person meetings be suspended until the end of the week in order to allow for a better understanding of the extent of the exposure and for full contact tracing to be completed. This will be necessary to mitigate any risks to the health and safety of delegates and staff. The Secretariat will be able to continue supporting virtual meetings to ensure that the work of the Organization continues uninterrupted.

I wish to assure you that the Secretariat is monitoring the situation and is working in close consultation with the concerned Mission to provide all necessary support. Our Medical Services have also initiated contact tracing with the full cooperation of the Mission. I am thankful to the Mission for its prompt action in alerting the Secretariat of the cases, thus enabling early action to minimize the risk of any potential exposure.

Please be reminded that the COVID-19 helpline (212 963 9999) remains in place, and that the Department of Operational Support and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance stand ready to assist. The United Nations Division for Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety and Health is available to respond to any questions from delegates with symptoms of COVID-19, as well as queries related to test results and other health-related matters. In order to avail themselves of this service, delegates are encouraged to contact the Division via osh@un.org. All such approaches will be handled with confidentiality and privacy.

I have asked the Secretariat to update your office on any further developments. We will assess the situation by the end of the week and revert with further guidance, if necessary.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

with my warmest personal regards


António Guterres

His Excellency
Mr. Volkan Bozkır
President of the General Assembly
New York