

23 October 2020

Subject: Observance Ceremony in commemoration of the United Nations Day and the resumed 3rd plenary meeting of the General Assembly during the seventy-fifth session

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the observance ceremony in commemoration of the United Nations Day, will take place on Monday, 26 October 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., to be followed by the High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., 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 is at low risk if the following precautionary measures aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, similar to those for the Main Committee meetings, are put in place:

- Access to the meeting will be restricted to delegates (one delegate per Member State and one delegate each from Holy See, the State of Palestine and the European Union, as well as those Observers inscribed on the list of speakers for the afternoon meeting) and staff members of the United Nations Secretariat;
- 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;
- It is expected that delegates will start arriving on premises before 8:45am and enter the building through the delegates' entrance. Delegates will be requested to maintain physical distancing of at least 2 meters while waiting to access the GA Hall;

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

- By swiping their United Nations issued ID card on entry, all delegates and support staff will declare as a condition of their entry that they: a) have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; b) have not had symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; c) have not had close contact with someone with COVID-19 or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, and d) have completed quarantine if in the last 14 days they have arrived from a country or US state that is considered elevated risk;
- The seating plan has been slightly amended to ensure physical distancing and delegates shall remain in their seats at all times;
- All statements will be made by delegations from their national seats and delegates will be required to wear face coverings except for when addressing the meeting;
- All delegates will be requested to maintain social distancing of at least 2 meters, to refrain from physical contact, including handshakes and other physical contact, during the meetings in recognition of the physical distancing requirements;
- The Secretary will actively manage the exit by calling each row for departure in a staggered manner;
- The proceedings of the meeting 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.

The final program of the Observance Ceremony has been circulated by the letter dated 23 October 2020, together with the final list of speakers for the continuation of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

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



Volkan BOZKIR