



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 November 2020

Subject: United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

Excellency,

The United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities is held annually under the auspices of the General Assembly in early November in line with resolution 32/197. In light of the formal nature of the meeting, the extensive preparations associated with the convening of the Pledging Conference and the current limitations in the use of the Headquarters, I have been informed by the Secretariat in the attached letter that it would be advisable for Member States to explore the possibility of rescheduling the Pledging Conference to early 2021.

It has also been brought to my attention that over the years, different proposals have been suggested to replace the current format with a more informal arrangement that would better correspond to the evolving functions and objectives of a pledging event.

In this regard, paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary General on pledging mechanisms to fund operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/57/332) noted that *“the format of the Pledging Conference is considered outdated and, apart from the concerns about duplication and inefficiency, its modalities are often considered rigid and its timing inconvenient or incompatible with the budgetary cycles of major donors.*

The same report also proposed possible alternative arrangements, and in paragraph 55 stated that the mechanisms and options outlined in that report *“are not mutually exclusive and the General Assembly may wish to select one or more of the mechanisms, reflecting the collective preferences of Member States with a view to agreeing on a more effective approach as an alternative to the existing pledging mechanism.”*

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

Therefore, in addition to putting the attached draft decision for the postponement of the Pledging Conference for consideration of the Plenary, I propose to convene an informal dialogue in early 2021 to explore possible alternatives that would allow for a less rigid and more dynamic pledging event in line with my call to implement the necessary reforms to ensure that the United Nations is fit for purpose and can deliver the future we want.

Should Member States consider and agree on a new model after those consultations, the General Assembly could adopt a decision to replace the Pledging Conference with the new arrangement.

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



Volkan BOZKIR

United Nations Nations Unies

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12 November 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 45/215, this Pledging Conference has typically been held in November each year. However, given the limitations on in-person meetings at United Nations premises due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related increase in the workload in connection with supporting calendar meetings, it has not been possible to make the necessary preparations for the Pledging Conference to be held in 2020.

Taking into account the exceptional circumstances, I would therefore like to kindly request, and following consultations with the different stakeholders in the United Nations system, that the Assembly consider adopting a decision postponing the 2020 Pledging Conference to the first quarter of 2021.

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



Movses Abelian
Under-Secretary-General
for General Assembly and Conference Management

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir
President of the General Assembly
New York

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda items 7 and 25

**Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and
allocation of items: reports of the General Committee**

Operational activities for development

Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly*

**United Nations Pledging Conference for Development
Activities**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/215 in which it decided that the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities shall continue to be convened early in November,

Noting that currently there are certain limitations in place on the use of the United Nations premises as precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19,

Reaffirming its resolution 74/303 in which it underlined the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly to address the evolving global challenges,

Decides to postpone the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities to early 2021

* In order for the General Assembly to take action on the present proposal, it will be necessary to consider agenda item 25 directly in plenary meeting.