

11 November 2020

Subject: 26th and 27th plenary meetings of the General Assembly during the seventy-fifth session

Excellency,

I have the honor to inform you that the 26th and 27th plenary meetings of the General Assembly during the seventy-fifth session will be held on Monday, 16 November 2020, at 10.00 a.m. and 3:00 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 other Observers inscribed on the list of speakers) 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 early enough 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.

As announced in the *United Nations Journal*, the Assembly will consider agenda item 127 entitled “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council”.

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



Volkan BOZKIR